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VIEW FROM THE MAST...

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WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE

By

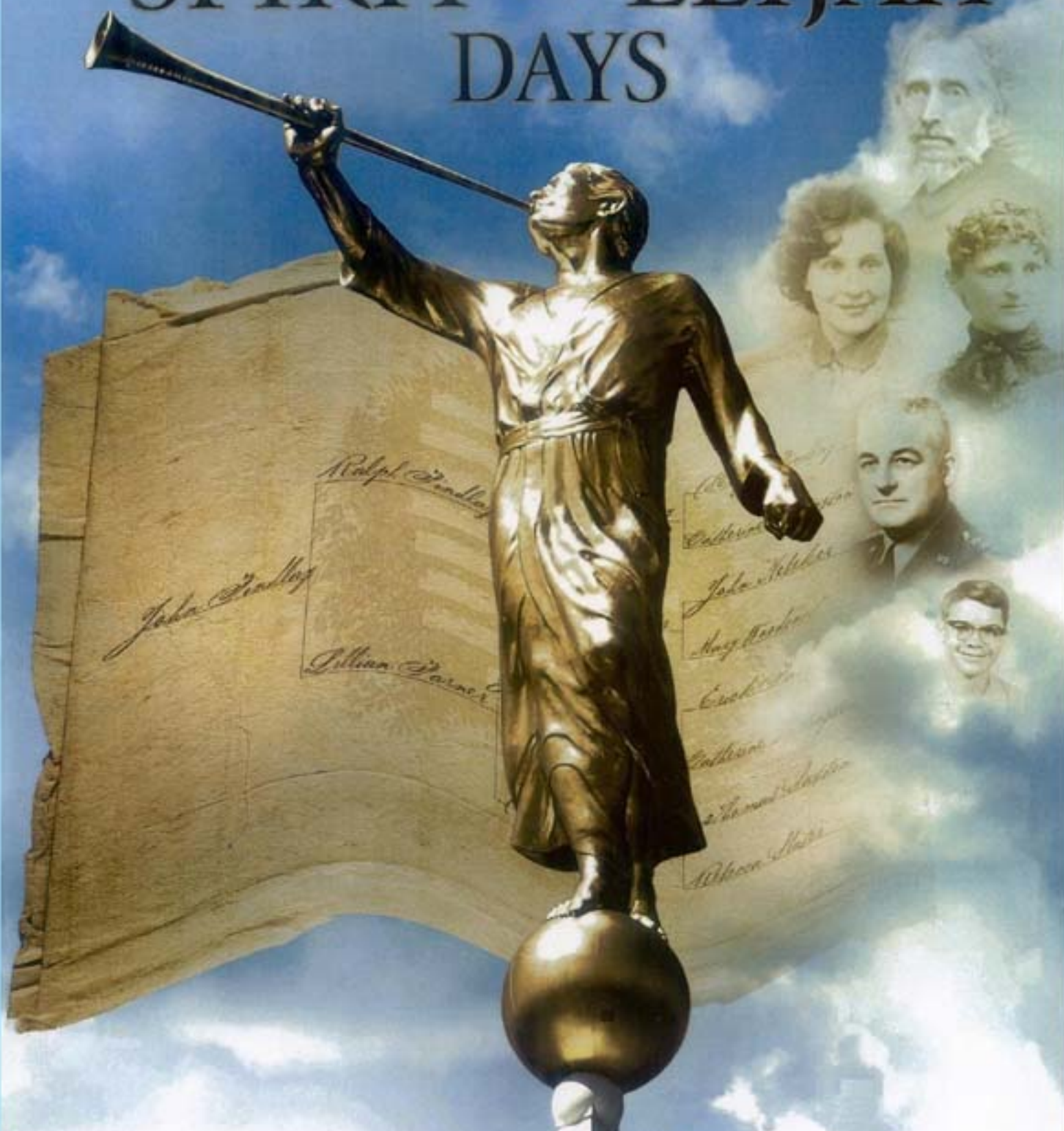
Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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Over the last several years it has been brought to my attention from various researchers, Wilson R. Johnson may have been the son of Benjamin and Amelia Johnson from Rowan County, North Carolina. This allegation has developed into is a disturbing reoccurrence of misinformation concerning Benjamin & Amelia Johnson. I am going to present the case against Wilson R. Johnson as a member of the Benjamin and Amelia Johnson family in a logical manner, supported by years of family history documented research. This report is not for those of you who have already concluded he is not part of Benjamin Johnson's family but for those of you who don't know how to find the truth concerning his parentage.

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SPIRIT OF ELIJAH DAYS



"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6

THE CONTROVERSY AND CONFUSION...

Over the last several years it has been brought to my attention from various researchers, Wilson R. Johnson may have been the son of Benjamin and Amelia Johnson from Rowan County, North Carolina. This allegation has developed into is a disturbing reoccurrence of misinformation concerning Benjamin & Amelia Johnson.

I have been continually assaulted with inquiries by Wilson R. or F. Johnson's descendant researchers inquiring for more information concerning his placement in the Benjamin & Amelia (???GASTON) Johnson family tree. Without any form of evidence whatsoever, they have made their claim and posted this allegation in no less than 8 different family trees on ancestry.com. I spent over an hour last night on the phone trying to teach another Wilson R. Johnson lost researcher his error!!!

I have had enough of researchers who are...either lazy, uninformed and unwilling to research or validate Wilson R. Johnson's parental information but willing to click a button on their mouse and accept whatever anyone puts out there on www.ancestry.com. However, I am willing to give them the benefit of the doubt and not say they are lazy or unwilling to find out these answers but maybe they just don't know **how** to research and find the truth concerning Wilson R. of F. Johnson.

I am going to present the case **against** Wilson R. Johnson as a member of the Benjamin and Amelia Johnson family in a logical manner, supported by years of family history **documented** research. This report is not for those of you who have already concluded he is not part of Benjamin Johnson's family but for those of you who don't know how to find the truth concerning his parentage.

WILSON R. OR F. JOHNSON, WHAT THEY DO KNOW...

It appears Wilson R. or F. Johnson's researchers do know he was born 8 June 1812 in North Carolina or Virginia. I imagine they obtained this date from his headstone located in the Saint John Cemetery, Willow Grove, Clay County, Tennessee, United States.

Based on that premise, Wilson should show up in the 1820 census in North Carolina as an 8-year-old boy. A good researcher would check every Johnson household in the 1820 census in all the counties of North Carolina and record **ALL** the heads of house with at least one 8-year-old son.

This would be time consuming and extensive but needs to be done in order to eliminate all other unrelated Johnson families.

For additional information on how to break down your brick wall read the following "**Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #6 How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall**" master ws.pdf can be accessed at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists> under the list...Genealogical Institute.

However, as a seasoned researcher of 40 years, I would not approach this problem of identifying his parents by starting with his birth but by starting where he last lived.

Since he died in Clay County, Tennessee, I would search the following sources.

SEARCH OPTIONS...

1. Check all newspapers in the county at the time of his death of 28 December 1905. What you are looking for is any reference to a death notice or obituary that may list his parentage. There is an obituary posted on someone's tree at ancestry.com but what you are looking for is any additional information the newspapers may have written about him or his family.
2. Check the county courthouse for a will or estate settlement to determine if he filed one. Educated people from well-to-do families usually were taught as young children to file wills...if he came from a well-educated family.
3. Check the deed records to determine when he **first** bought property in Clay County thereby establishing an approximate date of arrival and a more accurate location of the birth of his children.

Also, sometimes in those deed records, I have seen where they have listed the county and state from where the buyer originated. If you are lucky, the deed records in Cumberland County, Kentucky or Overton County, Tennessee might give you his North Carolina county location prior to his arrival in Kentucky or Tennessee.

4. Check the court records in Clay County for transactions by Wilson R. Johnson. These records might reveal his parentage or location of his birth.
5. Pay particular attention to "other" Johnson people in Clay County that are living in close proximity to Wilson who were born in North Carolina. They could be relatives.

It appears he moved from Overton County, Tennessee to Clay County, Tennessee sometime between 1870-1880. In order to track his footsteps, Overton County records needs to be researched.

1. Check all newspapers in Overton County for references to Wilson R. Johnson. This would cover a time period from 1840-1880. Since he spent a majority of his life in Overton County his legal presence should be extensive.
2. Check the deed records to determine when he first bought property in Overton County thereby establishing an approximate date of arrival and a more accurate location of the birth of his children.
3. Check the court records in Overton County for transactions by Wilson R. Johnson.

We have him documented in the 1850 census. Observe other Johnson families from North Carolina in the same county or ANY other North Carolina families living in close proximity.

Notice his firstborn son that we know of was named Andrew Foster Johnson. This could be a name from Wilson's father or grandfather or his mother's maiden name. Any one of his sons or grandsons could be named after Wilson's father.

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Especially interesting is his son named Richard. This would indicate maybe the R. in Wilson's middle initial is for Richard. I am sure the serious researcher will discover his middle name if they take the time to actually research the records. Concerning his marriage to Savina (**GALTON**) or Golton in 1838, this would indicate they were married in the county and probably at the residence of the bride's family.

SAVINA (GALTON) OF GOLTON

Savina (**GALTON**) or Golton was born 7 January 1816 in Tennessee daughter of David [1779-1850] & Sarah Franklin Marshall [1790-1860] (**SCOTT**) Galton.

For an explanation of how to list female birth surnames see the book, "*Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #4 A Rose by Any Other Name*"...2015 master ws.pdf can be accesses at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists> under the list...Genealogical Institute.

Determining where she was born is going to require the same kind of research listed above for her husband Wilson R. Johnson.

Since her father; David Galton is hard to place before the 1830 census of Cumberland County, Kentucky, then it is vital that you check the deed records for his arrival date in Cumberland County before he moved to Overton County, Tennessee by the 1840 census.

This would indicate where Wilson and Savina married in either Cumberland County, Kentucky or Overton County, Tennessee circa 1838. Personally look over those marriage books using all variables of names to determine the correct marriage date and location.

Printed and digitized marriage records are subject to transcription errors and are not reliable. Check for Wilson Johnson, Wilson Johnston, Will Johnson, W. Johnson, W. R. Johnson, W. F. Johnson, R. Johnson and Savina could have used a nickname or her middle name. Check for her under Galton, Golton, Galten, Golten, Dalton, Dolton, etc.

Also checking David Galton in the Overton County deed records would give you a good indication when he arrived and where his children were born.

What you are trying to do is to establish when and where Wilson R. Johnson met and courted Savina (**GALTON**) and where they were married. I am not referring to checking Internet sources but actually going on a road trip to those locales and checking the courthouse records and local libraries for references to the Johnson and Galton families.

By finding where David Galton was living at the time of Wilson and Savina's marriage gives us Wilson's location circa 1838.

Since David Galton was living in Cumberland County, Kentucky in the 1830 census maybe he or Wilson convinced the families to move to Overton County, Tennessee by the 1840 census.

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Since I have not been able to discover where Wilson and family were in the 1840 census, checking David Galton's 1840 census did not reveal Wilson and Savina were living with them in Overton County, Tennessee.

All of Wilson's children claimed they were born in Tennessee so it looks like they either married in Cumberland County, Kentucky and moved to Overton County, Tennessee before their firstborn in 1839-1840.

Remember, when you check the Overton County deed records this should help you in determining when Wilson arrived in Overton County, Tennessee.

WILSON R. OR F. JOHNSON IN THE 1830 CENSUS...

By the 1830 census, Wilson R. Johnson was 18 years old. This is old enough to establish a household for himself and marry and yet young enough to still be living at home.

Checking the census revealed nothing that could be conclusive. We don't know if he was living with his parents in North Carolina or on his own in Kentucky or Tennessee.

At this point we have arrived at checking all the Johnson families that was mentioned in the 1820 census earlier and now doing the same for the 1830 census of North Carolina.

WILSON R. OR F. JOHNSON'S FATHER WAS FROM ENGLAND...

Since Wilson R. (most likely Richard) Johnson was born in 1812...then his father could have been born between ages 15-30 or 1782-1797. Also his parents could have married, depending where Wilson R. Johnson was in the sibling birth order between 1795-1810.

The first and only indication about something concerning his father is in the 1880 census where Wilson declares his father was born in England and his mother in North Carolina.

Looking at the 1900 census for collaboration we find that Wilson is living with his daughter; Mary Margaret (**JOHNSON**) Harvey and when asked where his parents were born apparently at that elderly age he did not remember. However, his daughter Margaret also who is only 46 at that time claimed she didn't know where her **FATHER** was born and he was living with her!!!!

And to add insult to injury, in the 1910 census she still didn't know where her father was born!!! Obviously, she had not taken the time to ask or inquire about her father's family history while he was alive or even became interested after his death.

Any family history report from her should be handled with skepticism and researched to prove or disapprove her allegations.

Curiously, in the 1900 census, the census taker listed Wilson with an F. middle initial not an R.

Nevertheless, Wilson R. or F. Johnson died on 28 December 1905 in Willow Grove, Clay County, Tennessee, United States.

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Now that we have established Wilson R. Johnson's known locations after 1839, the birth of his firstborn, we begin the debunking of his relationship to the "other" Wilson, whom belonged to Benjamin & Amelia Johnson of Rowan County, North Carolina.

GETTING TO KNOW THE "OTHER" JOHNSON FAMILY

I have been researching the Benjamin and Amelia (____) Johnson family of Rowan, Iredell Counties of North Carolina since 1975. I have done extensive research work including a road trip to Rowan and Iredell Counties and Franklin County, Missouri. So, what you are about to read was researched and created by me unless otherwise stated and should be received as authentic.

Benjamin Johnson married Amelia (????) around 1795-1799 location unknown. Their firstborn was Townsend Johnson born 1799 in Rowan County, North Carolina. I figure Townsend may have been named after Amelia's maiden name or from family neighbor and friend; Townsen Dent.

For a complete explanation and history of some of the cemeteries in Franklin County, Missouri especially how they commingled several cemeteries resulting in misnaming them, read the book **"JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY, MISSOURI"** 1st Edition 2002, 2nd Edition 2011 and 3rd Edition in 2015. Posted at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>
The following are excerpts from the above book.

• **Amelia Johnson** *Her headstone states she is the wife of Benjamin Johnson. Good clear readings with a birth date of Nov 23, 1769 and a death date of Nov. 1, 1859.*

This makes her one of the oldest persons in this cemetery.

According to records by the other researchers, her maiden name was (GASTON)¹.

However, I have found no written evidence of a marriage and I am still searching. I am not surprised of an unverifiable marriage record, since many of the county courthouses in North Carolina were burned and the records are lost.

Also, not many Gaston's were in North Carolina at around 1795-1799, however, there were many in South Carolina just across the border.

I think I have an alternative hypothesis to this marriage problem.

Amelia's husband, Benjamin Johns(t)on was born in 1775. This makes Amelia 6 years older than Benjamin. That age discrepancy was a rarity in the 1800's. Men did not normally marry single women older than themselves...unless they were widows.

Concerning her age please note the following:

¹ This information obtained from researcher; Norine Steele Dunn

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The census data for 1800² states she was born between 1775-1784.
The census data for 1810³ states she was born between 1766-1784.
The census data for 1820⁴ states she was born before 1775.
The census data for 1830⁵ states she was born between 1761-1770.
The census data for 1840⁶ states she was born between 1761-1770.
The census data for 1850⁷ states she was born 1770 in North Carolina.

² **1800 Federal Census age 25**

Salisbury, Rowan, North Carolina, United States, page 448,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 1-0-1 0-0-1

free white males 9 & under [Townsend age 1]; 16-25 [Benjamin age 25]

free white females 16-25 [**Amelia age 30**]

page 447: A few doors above John Johnston family is a Thomas Howard family. Our Benjamin named one of his sons; Thomas Howard Johnson.

page 447: previous page John Johnston 3-1-0-0-1 1-1-1-0-1 [I think his father]

Page 448: Same page Ben is living next door to John Johnston Jun. 0-0-1 1-0-1 [I think his brother]

Page 448: two doors down Samuel Luckie 0-1-0-0-1 0-0-0-1

Page 448: few doors down Samuel Luckie Jun. 3-1-0-1 2-0-0-1

³ **1810 Federal Census age 35**

Iredell, North Carolina, United States, page 155,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 4-2-0-1-0 0-0-0-1-0

free white males 9 & under [Thomas age 2]; 9 & under [Dyson age 4]; 9 & under [Martin age 5]; 9 & under [William age 7]; 10-15 [unknown son]; 10-15 [Townsend age 11]; 26-44 [Benjamin age 35]

free white females 26-44 [**Amelia age 40**]

[Living next door to John D. Johnston family, Greenbury Johnston family and a few doors down is William, Barton & Joseph Dyson families.]

⁴ **1820 Federal Census age 45**

Iredell, North Carolina, United States, page 247,

JOHNSON, Benjamin 1-3-1-3-0-1 0-0-0-1-1

free white males 9 & under [Wilson age 5]; 10-15 [Wiley age 8]; 10-15 [Thomas age 12]; 10-15 [Dyson age 14]; 16-18 [Martin age 15]; 16-25 [William age 17]; 16-25 [unknown son]; 16-25 [Townsend age 21]; 45+ [Benjamin age 45]

free white females 26-45 [Rebecca (**DYSON**) age 20?]; 45+ [**Amelia age 50**]

[I believe that the female 26-45 is Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson; wife of Townsend Johnson who were married between 1817-1820.]

⁵ **1830 Federal Census age 55**

Saint John's Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 134

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1

free white males 15-19 [Wilson age 15]; 20-29 [Martin age 25]; 20-29 [William age 27]; 50-59 [Benjamin age 55]

free white females 30-39 [??]; 60-69 [**Amelia age 60**]

[Living next door to son; Dyson & Malinda (**DENT**) Johnson family.]

⁶ **1840 Federal Census age 65**

Saint John's Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 215,

JOHNSON, Benj. 0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1

free white males 20-29 [Wilson age 25]; 60-69 [Benjamin age 65]

free white females 70-79 [**Amelia age 70**]

[Living in close proximity to son; Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family, brother; William & Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**)

Johnson family, Son; Wiley & Jane Caroline (**JOHNSON**) Johnson Family, Thomas & Ann (**ROBEY**) Dyson family, William & ?? Dyson family.]

⁷ **1850 Federal Census age 75**

District 31, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 89b, 22 October 1850, line 18, house 1126, family 1126

JOHNSON, Benjamin w m 75; **Amelia w f 80**; Wilson w m 35

[All born in North Carolina. Benjamin is a farmer. Living next door to William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson family and Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family.]

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This data puts her in harmony with the headstone data for her birth date.

If her headstone birth date is correct, then she would have been 30 years old before her first child was born; Townsend in 1799. That is also a rarity. I don't believe it.

I think Amelia was married before Benjamin and her first married name was Gaston, not her maiden name! That's why we can't find a marriage record for them.

However, if they were married in Iredell County, North Carolina then those records were lost to fire.

Young girls usually married between the ages of 15 and 25 in the 1800's.

This means Amelia could have had her first marriage between 1784-1794, almost 10 years before she married Benjamin sometime between 1796-1799.

Since they named the first son, Townsend, maybe Townsend was her maiden name.

I maybe wrong, but I think if there is a marriage record, maybe its in South Carolina or Maryland.

Wilson "Willis" Johnson, the youngest son of Benjamin & Amelia stated in the 1880 census⁸ his parents were from Maryland.

*Their grandson, Lewis Johnson stated in the 1900 census his parents were from Maryland. Lewis is the son of Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson.⁹*

This could have been an error and maybe he reported their birth state, as Missouri (MO), which would not have been correct, but he stated MD for Maryland. Did the census taker make an error or... did Wilson know more than we do?

Concerning the reported birth surname of Gaston. We could all be wrong and it could be Gatson or Gadsen or any other variations. However, based on the above evidence, I cannot in all good conscience call her birth surname Gatson or any of those variations.

⁸ **1880 Federal Census**

Saint Johns Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 212a, 7 & 8 June 1880, line 24, house 76, family 77

JOHNSON, Joseph W. w m head 41; Mealy A. sister w f 42; John N. brother w m 28; **LAWRENCE**, Russia sister w f 24; Ada niece w f 4; **JOHNSON**, Fannie sister w f 22; **Wilson uncle w m 71**; **WALKER**, David other w m 27

[Joseph, Mealy, John N., Russia, Fannie were all born in Missouri, their father in North Carolina their mother in Missouri. Ada was born in Missouri as was her parents. Wilson was born in North Carolina his parents in **Maryland**. David was born in Mississippi as was his parents. Everyone is single except Russia is a widow. Joseph is a farmer, David is a schoolteacher.]

⁹ **1900 Federal Census**

618 Grant Street, Springfield, Campbell Twp, Greene, Missouri, United States, page 125b, 13 June 1900, line 97, house 618, dwelling 402, family 417

JOHNSON, **Louis** head w m born August 1821 age 79; **CONLON**, Rebecca dau w f born May 1863 age 37; **SANDERS**, Theodore boarder w m born April 1867 age 33; Nellie dau w f born July 1867 age 33

[Lewis born in North Carolina his parents born in **Maryland**. Rebecca born in Missouri her father in North Carolina her mother in Kentucky, Theodore born in Missouri his parents in Germany, Nellie born in Missouri, her father in North Carolina her mother in Kentucky. Lewis and Rebecca are widowers. Theodore and Nellie have been married for 7 years and Nellie says she has had 0 children born and 0 are living. Rebecca is a schoolteacher, Theodore is a traveling salesman. Louis owns his home.]

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I believe she was married previously before Benjamin and her married name was Gatson.

Therefore, until new evidence can be found, I am not listing any maiden name for Amelia.

Children of Benjamin & Amelia (unknown) Johns(t)on:

[1] [Townsend Johnson](#) (1n) married Rebecca (DYSON) (8i) ¹⁰

[2] [William "Billy" Johnson](#) married Sarah "Sally" (STOCKTON) ¹¹

[3] [Martin Johnson](#) married Mrs. Comfort (OSBORN) Drace ¹²

[4] [Dyson Johnson](#) (1b) married Malinda (DENT) ¹³

[5] [Thomas Howard Johnson](#) married Jane (SEBASTIAN) ¹⁴

[6] [Wiley Johnson](#) (1g) married Jane Caroline (JOHNSON) ¹⁵

[7] [Wilson "Willis" Johnson](#) never married.

Did you notice...no daughters? [End Excerpt from book]

THE FOLLOWING IS THE CRADLE TO GRAVE PROFILE FOR AMELIA (????)

Amelia (???) Johnson...Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2011

In harmony with the first law of genealogy or family history research, *i.e.*, documentation, I submit my famous Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile on this subject including all known documentation presented for the serious researcher. This has been done to help the serious researcher continue in their quest for family history knowledge without a duplication of effort. All I ask of you is to acknowledge my contribution to your family history research. My gift to you...Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

1769 Birthblock for Amelia (??GASTON) or (??GATSON) daughter of

Amelia (____) was born in North Carolina, British Colony on 23 November 1769.

Date from 1800 census states she was born 1775-1784.

Date from 1810 census states she was born 1766-1784.

Date from 1820 census states she was born before 1775.

Date from 1830 census states she was born 1761-1770.

Date from 1840 census states she was born 1761-1770.

Date from 1850 census states she was born 1770 in North Carolina.

Date from headstone states she was born 23 November 1769.

¹⁰ Unable to locate marriage record, I believe they married 1817-1820 most likely Iredell County, North Carolina.

¹¹ Franklin Co., MO., Marriages Book "A", Page 106. (8 December 1836)

¹² Franklin Co., MO., Marriages Book "A", Page 121. (26 Dec 1837) Double wedding with Comfort's sister Melinda Osborn.

¹³ Franklin Co., MO., Marriages Book "A", Page 36. (4 May 1839)

¹⁴ Franklin Co., MO., Marriages Book "A", Page 43. (21 January 1830)

¹⁵ Franklin Co., MO., Marriages Book "A", Page 123. (30 November 1837)

1769 Gatson or Gaston Name Controversy

Others researched Amelia's birth surname long before I entered the genealogical scene in 1975 but no proof was offered to substantiate the name of Gaston or Gatson as her birth surname and any evidence collected has not been conclusive. If the headstone birthdate of 23 November 1769 for Amelia is correct, then she was born 6 years older than spouse; Benjamin. Marrying a woman older than you was highly unusual for average marriages taking place in those times.

Also, another anomaly would indicate she was 30 years old when she had her firstborn child; Townsend Johnson in 1799. Young girls around that time period usually married between the ages of 15 and 25. This would indicate she could have been married between 1784 and 1794 long before she married Benjamin Johns(t)on. Benjamin could have been her second marriage.

Therefore, I believe Gaston or Gatson may not have been her birth surname but her previous married name. After checking North Carolina census records, especially the earlier ones (1800) I did not find many Gastons or Gatsons especially in Rowan County, North Carolina.

However, Gaston Gatson families were numerous in South Carolina. Usually there should have been parents or siblings living in close proximity to the children after the children get married. I found no Gaston or Gatson families in close proximity to the Johns(t)on clan in Rowan County, North Carolina in the 1800 census.

This would indicate two things, first; if her maiden name was Gaston or Gatson after marriage to Benjamin she left her Gaston family and moved to Rowan County, North Carolina or second; Gaston or Gatson was her previously married name and not related to Amelia's actual birth surname.

Therefore, that's why there are no Gaston's living in close proximity to Benjamin and Amelia (_____) Johnson's family in Rowan County, North Carolina. I wouldn't be surprised if Townsend was Amelia's maiden name. I am sure the answer lies in South Carolina somewhere. Floyd Thomas Pratt 2009

1783 Official end of the American Revolutionary War

In London, as political support for the war plummeted after Yorktown, British Prime Minister Lord North resigned in March 1782. In April 1782, the Commons voted to end the war in America. Preliminary peace articles were signed in Paris at the end of November 1782; the formal end of the war did not occur until the Treaty of Paris (for the U.S.) and the Treaties of Versailles (for the other Allies) were signed on September 3, 1783. The last British troops left New York City on November 25, 1783, and the United States Congress of the Confederation ratified the Paris treaty on January 14, 1784.

1790 Federal Census age 21

1795-1799 Marriage of Benjamin Johns(t)on and Amelia Gaston?

Benjamin Johns(t)on and Amelia ?Gatson or Gaston were married between 1795-1799 because their firstborn; Townsend was born in North Carolina in 1799. They may have been married in South Carolina. Under the Marriage Bond custom, the couple usually married in the bride's county of residence. Therefore, further research should take place in the counties of the states that had Gastons in them. Not many in North Carolina but a great many of them in South Carolina.

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Check marriage bonds for South Carolina counties and if unsuccessful, then focus on Virginia and Maryland. Floyd Thomas Pratt 30 April 2002

1799 Childbirth of son; Townsend Johnson

Townsend Johnson was born near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States on 30 July 1799.

1800 Federal Census age 31

Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States, page 448,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 1-0-1 0-0-1

free white males 9 & under [Townsend age 1]; 16-25 [Benjamin age 25]

free white females 16-25 [Amelia age 30]

page 447: A few doors above John Johnston family is a Thomas Howard family. Our Benjamin named one of his sons; Thomas Howard Johnson.

page 447: previous page John Johnston 3-1-0-0-1 1-1-1-0-1

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page 448: few doors down Samuel Luckie Jun. 3-1-0-1 2-0-0-1

1800-1802 Childbirth of Unknown son Johnson

An unknown son Johnson, *i.e.*, unknown to us was born between 1800-1802 near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States.

1801-1806 Husband's Property Transaction

Rowan County, North Carolina Deed Record Book 1801-1806, Book 18, page 586

James Campbell sold land to Benjamin Johnson. This establishes their home in Rowan County, North Carolina.

1803 Childbirth of son; William "Billy" Johnson

William "Billy" Johnson was born 16 February 1803 near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States.

1805 Childbirth of son; Martin Johnson

Martin Johnson was born 22 March 1805 near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States.

1806 Childbirth of son; Dyson Johnson

Dyson Johnson was born 28 October 1806 near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States.

1808-1814 Husband's Property Transaction

Rowan County, North Carolina Deed Record Book 1808-1814 Book 18, page 609

Benjamin Johnson sold land to James Pracher. This establishes their departure from Rowan County, North Carolina.

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1808-1810 Family Move

Moved from Rowan County, North Carolina, United States to Iredell County, North Carolina, United States sometime between 1808-1810.

1808 Childbirth of son; Thomas Howard Johnson

Thomas Howard Johnson was born in 1808 in Iredell County, North Carolina, United States.

1810 Federal Census age 41

Iredell County, North Carolina, United States, page 155,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 4-2-0-1-0 0-0-0-1-0

free white males 9 & under [Thomas age 2]; 9 & under [Dyson age 4]; 9 & under [Martin age 5]; 9 & under [William age 7]; 10-15 [unknown son]; 10-15 [Townsend age 11]; 26-44 [Benjamin age 35]

free white females 26-44 [Amelia age 41]

[Living next door to John D. Johnston family, Greenbury Johnston family and a few doors down is William, Barton & Joseph Dyson families.]

1812 Childbirth of son; Wiley Johnson

Wiley Johnson was born 6 April 1812 in Iredell County, North Carolina, United States.

1815 Childbirth of son; Wilson "Willis" Johnson

Wilson "Willis" Johnson was born 1815 in Iredell County, North Carolina, United States.

1818 Franklin County, Missouri Territory organized

Though still recognized as the part of the Missouri Territory, in 1812 there were 5 counties; St. Charles, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau and New Madrid. By 1813, Washington County was created and in 1816, Howard County followed by Jefferson, Franklin, Wayne, Lincoln, Madison, Montgomery, Pike and Cooper were created in 1818.

1820 Federal Census age 51

Iredell, North Carolina, United States, page 247,

JOHNSON, Benjamin 1-3-1-3-0-1 0-0-0-1-1

free white males 9 & under [Wilson age 5]; 10-15 [Wiley age 8]; 10-15 [Thomas age 12]; 10-15 [Dyson age 14]; 16-18 [Martin age 15]; 16-25 [William age 17]; 16-25 [unknown son]; 16-25

[Townsend age 21]; 45+ [Benjamin age 45]

free white females 26-45 [Rebecca (**DYSON**) age 20?] 45+ [Amelia age 51]

[I believe the female 26-45 is Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson; wife of Townsend Johnson who were married between 1817-1820.]

1821 State of Missouri Created

The land that is now Missouri was acquired from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and became known as the Missouri Territory on June 4, 1812. The southeastern portion of the territory was admitted into the union as the State of Missouri the 24th state on August 10, 1821. As other states were created from it's huge territorial boundaries, Missouri settled on its present shape as it is found today.

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE

BY *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* 2011 REVISED 2ND EDITION 2015

1823 Family Move

From Iredell, North Carolina, United States to Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States. The Benjamin Johnson family arrived in Missouri in 1823. This has been proven due to son; Martin carried a whetstone for sharpening knives from North Carolina to Missouri and wrote on stone stating, **"Carried from North Carolina in 1823 by Martin Johnson"**. I have seen the whetstone. For more information see Martin Johnson's file.

Research Note

Their motive for relocation was probably due to the stories of Daniel Boone and others who had been to Franklin and Saint Charles County, Missouri where Daniel settled and died in 1820. The Johnson's and all those allied families from Rowan and Iredell County desired to relocate to this newly formed state of Missouri. With a large family beginning to come of age and needing cheap good fertile soil in which to cultivate and raise their families, I would imagine the property values in Rowan and Iredell Counties of North Carolina were expensive and mostly "farmed" out. Stories of plentiful game and cheap fertile land probably swayed the Johnson's and their allied families to relocate to Franklin County, Missouri. - Floyd Thomas Pratt 2009

Research Note

Even though Benjamin Johnson arrived in Missouri in 1823, he probably was with his brother William Henry Johnson Sr. in Saint Charles County before settling in Franklin County. He may have purchased property in either Saint Charles County or Saint Louis before he bought land near Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri in 1828.

I did not record **ALL** his property transactions from the Franklin County Courthouse, in Union, Union Township, Franklin County, Missouri so there could be more accurate property records indicating when he actually arrived in Franklin County, Missouri.

1828 Husband's Property Transaction

In Missouri in 1828 land entry: Benjamin Johnson Post Office: Washington, Section: 35 Township: 44 Range: 1w Entered 12 January 1828.

1830 Federal Census age 61

Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 134

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1

free white males 15-19 [Wilson age 15]; 20-29 [Martin age 25]; 20-29 [William age 27]; 50-59 [Benjamin age 55]

free white females 30-39 [??]; 60-69 [Amelia age 61]

[Living next door to son; Dyson & Malinda (**DENT**) Johnson family.]

1840 Federal Census age 71

Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 215,

JOHNSON, Benj. 0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1

free white males 20-29 [Wilson age 25]; 60-69 [Benjamin age 65]

free white females 70-79 [Amelia age 71]

[Living in close proximity to son; Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family, brother; William & Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**) Johnson family, Son; Wiley & Jane Caroline (**JOHNSON**) Johnson Family, Thomas & Ann (**ROBY**) Dyson family, William & ?? Dyson family.]

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1850 Federal Census age 81

District 31, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 89b, 22 October 1850, line 18, house 1126, family 1126

JOHNSON, Benjamin w m 75; Amelia w f 80; Wilson w m 35

[All born in North Carolina. Benjamin is a farmer. Living next door to William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson family and Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family.]

1851 Named in Husband's Will

Franklin County, Missouri Will Record Book "B", page 102, dated 1 October 1851

*"I Benjamin Johnson of the County of Franklin and Stat of Missouri do make and substitute this my last will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say. First. I will that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid. Secondly, I give devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife Amelia Johnson all my Estate both real personal and mixed during her natural life. And Thirdly, At the death of my beloved wife, I give devise and bequeath unto my son **Wilson** Johnson all my property of every kind both real personal and mixed forever. To my other children to wit, **Townsend** Johnson, **Thomas H.** Johnson, **William** Johnson, **Martin** Johnson, **Dyson** Johnson, and **Wiley** Johnson I leave nothering in this will as they have al longs since left me and are well settled and I have already [done] all for them I feel able to do. Fouthly, I have constitute and appointed my son **Wilson** Johnson executor to this my last will and teastament hereby revolking and annulling all former will by me made and ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In testimony where I have hereunto set my hand and seal this first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty one. signed Ben Johnson Signed published and declared by the above named Benjamin Johnson as and for his last will and testament in presence of us who at his request have signed as witnesses to the same. Attest: Elijah M. Lean and Benj. F. Burch"*

1852 Death of spouse; Benjamin Johnson

Benjamin Johnson died near Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States on 18 February 1852.

[1] Date from the headstone states he died 18 February 1852 aged 76yrs 10mos 18 days.

[2] Date from family bible of William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson states he died 18 February 1852.

1852 Spouse; Benjamin Johnson's Will Recorded & Filed

[1] *"State of Missouri, County of Franklin, Personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Franklin County Elijah M. Lean and Benjamin F. Burch who being by me duly sworn upon their oaths that the forgoing instrument of writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Benjamin Johnson was signed by him in our presence and declared by him to be his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory at the execution of the same, and that we signed our names as witnesses to the same in the presence of the testator and at his request and in the presence of each other. Elijah M. Lean and Benj. f. Burch Sworn to and subscribed before the County Court this 10 day of August 1852. In witness whereof I hereby set my hand and seal of said County Court at office in Union this date last aforesaid. C. S. Jefferies Clerk, R. E. B. Jefferys D.C.*

[2] *State of Missouri, County of Franklin, The foregoing will of Benjamin Johnson was on this day produced in open court and admitted to probate upon the oaths of Elijah M. Lean and Benjamin F. Burch subscribing witnesses to the same. Witness my hand and seal of said County Court at office in Union this 10th day of August A.D. 1852. C. S. Jefferies Clerk, R. E. B. Jefferys D.C.*

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[3] *State of Missouri, County of Franklin, This will was filed for record August 10th 1852 and recorded same day in Will Book B, pages 102 as following given under my hand and seal of said County Court at office in Union this day and year aforesaid. C. S. Jefferies Clerk, R. E. B. Jefferys D.C."*

1853 Husband's Will Jacket Probate Transaction

Franklin County, Missouri Will Record Book "J", page 502, 503 on will jacket
"Benjamin Johnson Last Will filed 21 May 1853 C.S. Jeffries, Recorder, Filed 10 August 1852 State of Missouri, County of Franklin-This instrument of writing was filed for record May 21st 1853 and duly recorded July 5th 1853 in Book "J" pages 502 & 503. Witness my hand and seal of office at Union, this date last aforesaid C. S. Jefferies, Recorder and R.E. P. Jeffries D.R."

1859 Death of Amelia ??Gaston or ??Gatson Johnson

Amelia (???) Johnson died near Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States on 1 November 1859.

[1] Date from the headstone states she died 1 November 1859.

[2] Date from family bible of William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson states she died 1 November 1859.

1859 Burial of Amelia Gaston or Gatson Johnson

Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery aka misnamed McAllister Cemetery, Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States
Johnson, Amelia wife of B. Johnson born 23 November 1769 died 1 November 1859 buried next to son, Dyson Johnson.

Research Note

For a complete explanation and history of some of the cemeteries in Franklin County, Missouri especially how they commingled several cemeteries resulting in misnaming them, read the book **"JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY, MISSOURI"** 1st Edition 2002, 2nd Edition 2011 and 3rd Edition in 2015. Posted at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists> Under the list...Pratt Archives Collections

[End of Cradle to Grave Profile for Amelia (____) Johnson]

The above references were researched by me and verified unless otherwise stated. Now concerning her husband Benjamin Johns(t)on, the following excerpt was also taken from the book, **"JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI"**.

- **1c Benjamin Johnson** Death date of Feb 18, 1852 aged 76yrs, 10mos, 18days calculates out a birth date of 31 March 1775.

Benjamin Johnson was born in Rowan County, North Carolina son of John & (____) Johnston Sr.

There is considerable confusion as to his identity in North Carolina. Here's why. From 1750 to 1820 in Rowan & Iredell Counties, there were several John Johnstons and several Benjamin Johnstons. It appears they were related in various ways.

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The first place I pick up on my Benjamin, he is a witnesses to a land transaction in Rowan County in 1797.

In the 1800 census of Rowan County, North Carolina¹⁶. He is listed as a male age 16-25 with a female age 16-25 and a male age 9 & under.

Benjamin would be 25 in 1800 and Amelia should be 6 years older, however, the census taker didn't always get the dates right. Also, the boy would be son; Townsend Johnson born 1799.

In 1800, Benjamin is living next door to John Johnston Sr., and John Johnston Jr., and a Thomas Howard and Samuel Luckie Sr and Samuel Luckie Jr in Rowan County, North Carolina.

John Johnston Sr. in the 1800 census is aged 45 and over with John Jr. 16-25 and Benjamin is 16-25 and William; Benjamin's brother is still living with his father because he is only 16.

It is in my opinion that the John Johnston Sr. is the father of Benjamin & William Henry Johnston Sr. If this is the case then John Johnston Jr. is their brother¹⁷.

Smoking Gun: *In the week of June 7th through the 13th of 2002, I made a trip to Statesville, Iredell County, North Carolina and Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina for Johnston, Lucky, Hunter, Osborn, Dyson and Lovelace research in their family history rooms of the public library.*

I had found compiler; Russell Black had abstracted the deeds from Rowan County and Lois Schneider, Edie Purdy and Shirley Coulter abstracted deeds from Iredell County and these abstracts were listed in book form.

In Deed Book 18, Page 586 of Rowan County, North Carolina dated 10 June 1802 stated the following:

"James Campbell of Rowan County to Benjamin Johnston, son of John of the other part of Rowan for £95, gold and silver lawful money of North Carolina sells to Benjamin Johnston son of John, 95 acres lying in Rowan adjacent George Brandon Jr. and John Brandon's property. It was part of a State Grant to John Brandon. Witnesses: Thomas Bean, William Howard. Proved by Howard at May Court 1803¹⁸."

¹⁶ **1800 Federal Census**

Salisbury, Rowan, North Carolina, United States, page 448,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 1-0-1 0-0-1

free white males 9 & under [Townsend age 1]; 16-25 [Benjamin age 25]

free white females 16-25 [Amelia age 30]

page 447: A few doors above John Johnston family is a Thomas Howard family. Our Benjamin named one of his sons; Thomas Howard Johnson.

page 447: previous page John Johnston 3-1-0-0-1 1-1-1-0-1 [I think his father]

Page 448: Same page Ben is living next door to John Johnston Jun. 0-0-1 1-0-1 [I think his brother]

Page 448: two doors down Samuel Luckie 0-1-0-0-1 0-0-0-1

Page 448: few doors down Samuel Luckie Jun. 3-1-0-1 2-0-0-1

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ **Rowan Co., North Carolina Deed Abstracts Deed Book 18** by Russell Black, page 129.

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I verified this by looking at the actual microfilm of the deed which was in poor condition and almost illegible. Also, I checked it with another book of abstracts.

Benjamin Johnson signed with an (X) and his father John also signed with an (X).

This was the smoking gun I had looked for over 25 years. This was my proof of parentage for Benjamin Johnson. There are several Benjamin Johnstons around that time. In addition to my Benjamin, there is a Benjamin Johnston Sr. and a Benjamin Johnston Jr.

What differentiates my Benjamin from the other Benjamins is his association with his neighbors in the 1800 census. Look at footnote 46 on the previous page. Samuel Luckie Sr. and Jr. play a pivotal role in the Johnson families both in North Carolina and in Franklin County, Missouri. There are so many land transactions (hundreds) in Rowan & Iredell Counties between these families; I could not record all of them.

The Johnson's and Luckie's were some of the original settlers receiving land grants and lived off of South Yadkin River north of Fourth Creek at the junction of Beaver Dam Creek in northern Rowan County, North Carolina.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact location because they used names of adjacent owners to plot the boundaries of the property when transferring ownership.

Looking at the map, you can see the Johnstons and Luckie's were close neighbors.

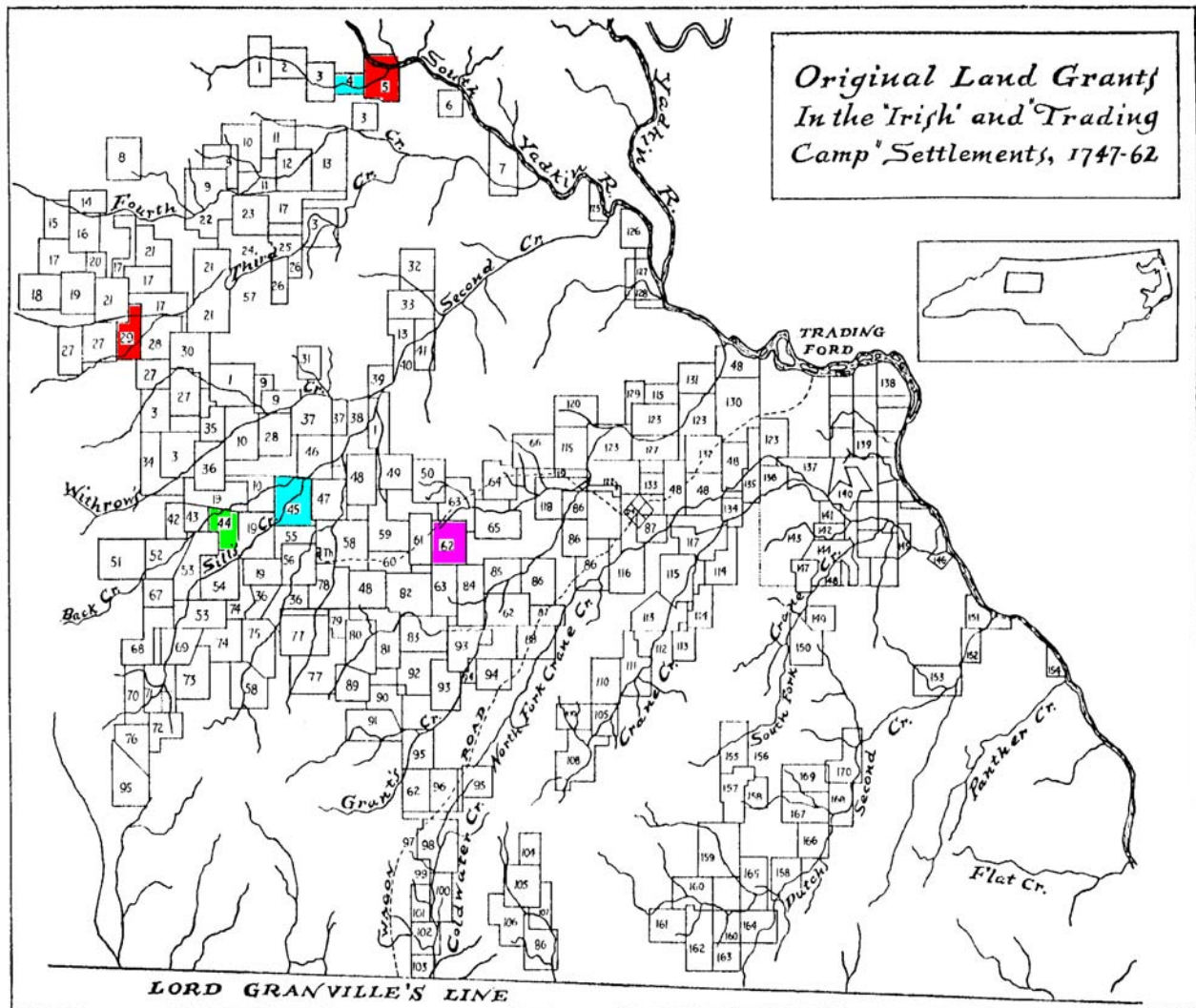
Robert Johnston could be John Sr.'s father but I cannot prove the connection yet.

Beaver Dam Creek runs into Iredell County, North Carolina, in fact, it is just a mile or two from Statesville, which is the county seat of Iredell County, North Carolina.

The Johnstons, Luckies were successful businessmen who owned large profitable plantations.

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ORIGINAL GRANTEES IN THE IRISH AND TRADING FORD SETTLEMENTS, 1747-1762

Map#

Name and Number of Grants (if more than one)

4 Samuel, John, and Joseph Luckey (Luckie)

45 Robert Luckey (Luckie)

5 Robert Johnston

29 Thomas Johnston

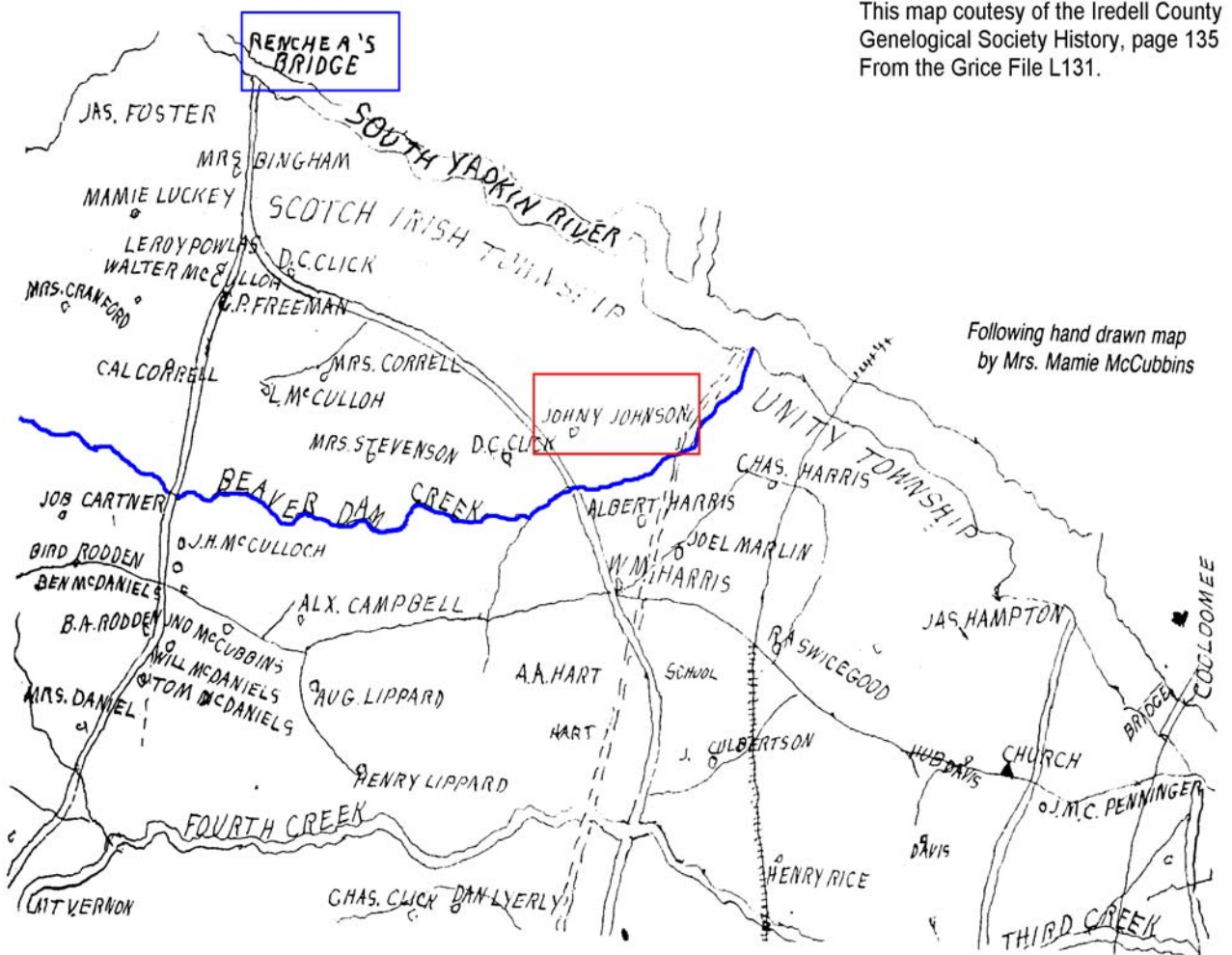
44 William Niblock

62 John Brandon (3)

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Map of Beaver Dam Creek and South Yadkin River, Rowan County, North Carolina



In the Book **"A History of Rowan County, North Carolina"** by Rev. Jethro Rumple published by Heritage Books, 1999, on page 167 states the following:

Lord Cornwallis Departs

"A march of about fifteen or eighteen miles brought them to their first encampment, on the west side of the South Fork of the Yadkin (River), not far from Rencher's (or Renshaw's) Ford. A little stream, called Beaver Dam, would furnish them water, and the well-to-do farmers of the South River and Fourth Creek----the Johnsons, Luckeys, Grahams, Gillespies, and Knoxes---- had capacious and well-filled barns, cribs, and granaries."

This article was originally published in 1881. This collaborates and verifies the prosperity of the Johnsons and Luckies.

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Rowan County Will Book "D", Page 5, dated 7 Oct 1802:

William Howard, Jr. date 7 Oct 1802 leaves his last will and testament. To his wife, Sarah to have £20. Sons, Alvin and Greenburg and daughter Anna. Executor: his father William Howard Sr., and brother John Prather. Witnesses: **Benjamin Johnson** and Jesse Swann.¹⁹

Rowan County Deed Book "18", Page 131, dated 7 Feb1803:

On 7 Feb1803, a Benjamin Johnson **Jr** sells to John Prather Jr. for \$237.50, 95 acres on Hunting Creek adjacent George Brandon and John Brandon. It was part of a State Grant to John Brandon. Witnesses: William Howard, John (X) Johnston. Proved by Howard at May Court 1803²⁰.

I don't believe Russell Black, the author of this abstract was correct in listing Benjamin as a junior. I looked at the microfilm and could not read the writing it was so faint. How could Benjamin be a junior, when a previous deed recorded him the "son of John" unless this is a different Benjamin. You decide.

There are several coincidences in this abstract with the previous one on the deed page 586 in 1802. (See page 29) *First the acreage is identical. Second the property borders on the same adjacent owners. It is identified as the original state grant to John Brandon. (See map of grants on page 30) John Johnson signs this deed with Benjamin and they both made (X). William Howard is a witness on both.*

William Howard, it appears was the father or brother to Thomas Howard in the 1800 census. (See footnote 46 on page 28) What makes this interesting is Benjamin named one of his sons, Thomas Howard Johnson!

*I also checked the above abstract with another book²¹ and there is no mention of a junior for Benjamin but **George Brandon** is listed as a junior.*

Benjamin and family move sometime between 1803 to 1810 to Iredell Co., NC.

In the 1810 census of Iredell Co, NC, Benjamin is living next door to Greenbury Johnston, John D. Johnston, Thomas Lovelace, and on the prior page William, Joseph, Barton Dyson.²²

*This is significant because Benjamin's son, Townsend married Rebecca (**DYSON**), daughter of William Dyson between 1817-1820, most likely in Iredell County, North Carolina. Unfortunately, the courthouse lost their marriage records in a fire.*

¹⁹ **Rowan Co. North Carolina Deed Abstracts Will Book "D"**, Page 5, by Russell Black, Page 51.

²⁰ **Rowan Co. North Carolina Deed Abstracts Deed Book 18**, by Russell Black, Page 131.

²¹ **Genealogy or Family Tree of James Johnson and his Descendants** by A. H. Summers (1903), page 32.

²² **1810 Federal Census**

Iredell, North Carolina, United States, page 155,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 4-2-0-1-0 0-0-0-1-0

free white males 9 & under [Thomas age 2]; 9 & under [Dyson age 4]; 9 & under [Martin age 5]; 9 & under [William age 7]; 10-15 [unknown son]; 10-15 [Townsend age 11]; 26-44 [Benjamin age 35]

free white females 26-44 [Amelia age 40]

[Living next door to John D. Johnston family, Greenbury Johnston family and a few doors down is William, Barton & Joseph Dyson families.]

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Also, Townsend Johnson's son, William U. married Rebecca (**LOVELACE**),²³ daughter of Levi & Sarah (**LAZENBY**) Lovelace. Levi is the son of the above Thomas & Amelia (**DYSON**) Lovelace. Levi & family settle in Franklin County, Missouri between 1845-1846.

Benjamin Johnston stays in Iredell County, North Carolina and is in the 1820 census.²⁴

In 1823, Benjamin moves his family to Franklin County, Missouri accompanied by:

- (1) Jesse Luckie and family.
- (2) His brother, William Henry (1f) & Elizabeth (1e) (LUCKIE) Johnson Sr.,
- (3) John Luckie (2k), father of Elizabeth and Jesse, who first settled in Saint Charles County, Missouri. More about these people later in the report.

Valentine (**2c**) & Margaret (**2i**) (**WILLSON**) Hunter, join them in Franklin County, Missouri sometime in 1827.

There are several land transactions in the years, 1823, 1824 in Iredell County for a Benjamin Johnson. Either, this is one of the other Benjamin Johnsons or our Benjamin Johnson went back to Iredell to sell his land holdings. We have proof of his arrival in Missouri in 1823.

Upon their arrival in Missouri, the Johnstons dropped the "t" in Johnston.

The rest of the Dysons came to Franklin County, Missouri in the 1830s. The Osborns, Campbells, Caldwells, Dents, Gibsons, Jamisons, Parks and Richardsons were already here in Franklin County, Missouri. by 1819²⁵. More about these people later in the report.

Benjamin's son Martin, carried a whetstone used for sharpening pocketknives with the inscription, "**Brought from N Carolina by Martin Johnson in 1823**"²⁶. This is a "smoking gun" and offers hard evidence of the Johnson's arrival in Missouri as being 1823.

²³ Franklin Co., MO. Marriage Book "B", page 19. (5 February 1846)

²⁴ **1820 Federal Census**

Iredell, North Carolina, United States, page 247,

JOHNSON, Benjamin 1-3-1-3-0-1 0-0-0-1-1

free white males 9 & under [Wilson age 5]; 10-15 [Wiley age 8]; 10-15 [Thomas age 12]; 10-15 [Dyson age 14]; 16-18 [Martin age 15]; 16-25 [William age 17]; 16-25 [unknown son]; 16-25 [Townsend age 21]; 45+ [Benjamin age 45]

free white females 26-45 [Rebecca (**DYSON**) age 20?] 45+ [Amelia age 50]

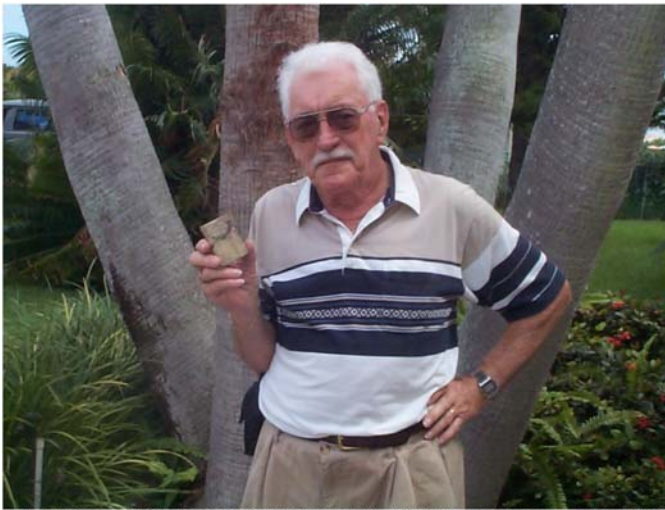
[I believe that the female 26-45 is Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson; wife of Townsend Johnson who were married between 1817-1820.]

²⁵ "**Franklin Co., MO. Territorial Tax List of 1819**", *Missouri Pioneers*, Volume 9, page 53-58, Compiled by Miss Nadine Hodges & Mrs. Howard W. Woodruff.

²⁶ Edwin Earl Johnson, son of James Millard Johnson Jr. was given a whetstone used for sharpening knives by his father. This was a very special whetstone because it belonged to Martin Johnson. Written on the whetstone is the inscription, "**Brought from N Carolina by Martin Johnson in 1823**". This stone measures 2" by 3" and is ½" thick. There is evidence of indentations where a pocketknife had been sharpened. Edwin Johnson lives in Satellite Beach, FL. (deceased 2004)

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Edwin Earl Johnson (1921-2004) holding the whetstone his GGrandfather, Martin Johnson carried from Iredell County, North Carolina to Franklin County, Missouri in 1823.



Edwin Earl Johnson holding whetstone Martin Johnson carried from North Carolina. Writing states "Brought from N Carolina by Martin Johnson in 1823"

Edwin Johnson (see footnote 56) told me family folklore had said that a brother of Benjamin's had accompanied Benjamin & family to Missouri but he went on to Texas. He could be the mystery male in the 1810 & 1820 census. I address this issue in my full report on Benjamin Johnston.

This is a very interesting story because I found a will in Iredell County, North Carolina probate records, which stated the following:

James Johnston of the county of Iredell & N.C. being very sick & weak in body bequests various items to each of his children. To Hezekiah Johnson he stated the following, "to my son, Hezekiah Johnson if he returns from Texas within the space of 7 years from the date of my decease, I bequeath an equal share of my estate with the rest of my children, but if he does not return within the time above specified, then & in that case I give and bequeath to his children the ½ as much as is hereafter bequeathed to any of my other children"²⁷.

This James Johnson also had sons named William and Benjamin.

After his arrival in Franklin County, Missouri in 1823, Benjamin prospered and became a leading citizen of Franklin County and continued the family tradition of slave ownership until his death in 1852. One of his first land entries in Franklin County, Missouri was recorded 12 Jan 1828²⁸ in Section 35. See page 9.

Benjamin owned large tracts of land and as you can see on the map, a schoolhouse occupied the upper portion of his property. (See yellow area on map on page 9)

²⁷ **Iredell County Court House Records Will Book "2",** Page 227 (1840) #555

²⁸ **"Franklin County-Homesteaders Before 1831",** *Missouri Miscellany*, Vol 7, Page 72. Compiled by Mrs. Howard W. Woodruff. (1984)

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He prospered in Franklin County, Missouri and is listed in the 1830²⁹, 1840³⁰ and 1850³¹ census.

The deed books of Franklin County, Missouri has over 30 land transactions by Ben and his descendants.

*His brother, William Henry Johnson Sr. lived next door and also owned many acres.
(See green area on map on page 9)*

Benjamin's will is recorded at the probate office of Union, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri.³²

The Johnson's were southern sympathizers. During the civil war they supported the confederate cause. Several of the Johnson sons died in the service of the confederacy.

Concerning the American Revolution, I have not been able to determine their affiliation as yet. The Rumble article on page 30, suggests that they gave aid to Cornwallis. However, Cornwallis could have taken those supplies by force. Until more research is done to determine the identity of John Johnston Sr., Benjamin's father, we cannot ascertain his records and verify the extent of the Johnson's support in the American Revolution.

In a recent movie, "The Patriot"³³, starring Mel Gibson, the movie portrays General Charles Cornwallis and the British army's struggle for North and South Carolina with some poetic license.

The major details are accurate and the film shows the overwhelming odds the American patriots had to overcome in order to be victorious. The courage of common ordinary farmers was decisive in securing an American victory. Without God's intervention during that war, I feel we would still be British citizens.

²⁹ **1830 Federal Census age 55**

Saint John's Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 134

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1

free white males 15-19 [Wilson age 15]; 20-29 [Martin age 25]; 20-29 [William age 27]; 50-59 [Benjamin age 55]

free white females 30-39 [??]; 60-69 [Amelia age 60]

[Living next door to son; Dyson & Malinda (**DENT**) Johnson family.]

³⁰ **1840 Federal Census age 65**

Saint John's Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 215,

JOHNSON, Benj. 0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1

free white males 20-29 [Wilson age 25]; 60-69 [Benjamin age 65]

free white females 70-79 [Amelia age 70]

[Living in close proximity to son; Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family, brother; William & Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**)

Johnson family, Son; Wiley & Jane Caroline (**JOHNSON**) Johnson Family, Thomas & Ann (**ROBEY**) Dyson family, William & ??

Dyson family.]

³¹ **1850 Federal Census age 75**

District 31, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 89b, 22 October 1850, line 18, house 1126, family 1126

JOHNSON, Benjamin w m 75; Amelia w f 80; Wilson w m 35

[All born in North Carolina. Benjamin is a farmer. Living next door to William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson family and Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family.]

³² Franklin Co., Mo. Probate Office, Union, MO. Probate Book "B" Page 102.

³³ "**The Patriot**", Columbia Pictures (2000)

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Update...however, since I wrote the above in 2002, I have since discovered that my Pratt roots lie in Cherokee ancestry.

After reading over 45 books on native American heritage and accessing over 145 sources, I discovered my 3rd Great-Grandfather; Henry Pratt was a son of a Cherokee Chief.

The British sought help from the Native Americans to dispel the rebel forces. They promised if the natives would fight for their cause, they would enforce King George's Proclamation Line of 1763; keeping the white men from homesteading across the Appalachian divide.

The Americans also solicited the natives' assistance, but could not promise their countrymen would not invade their territory. After much debate and prayer, they decided to fight with the British to preserve their land and their way of life. When they lost the war, it was the beginning of the end for the native populations.

I also have American heroes, who fought against the British and grabbed victory from the jaws of defeat.

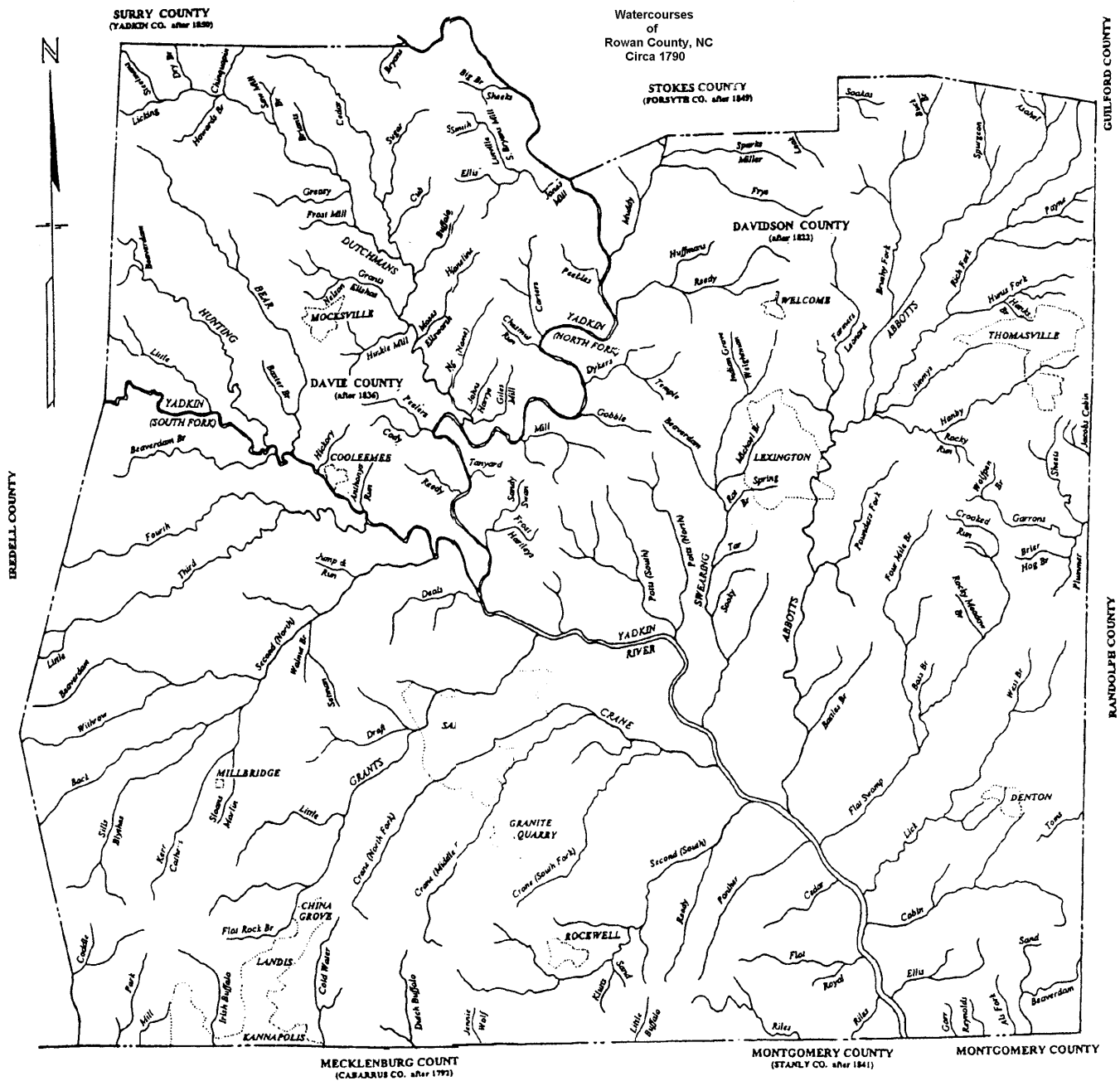
I speak of the overmountian men of Tennessee, who defeated Col. Ferguson at King's Mountain in North Carolina preventing Cornwallis from mustering his troops to march on Washington.

These ragtail mountain men, includes my King, Carter, Osborn ancestors from western North Carolina pushed Cornwallis' army back to Charleston, South Carolina forcing him to withdraw his troops and saving George Washington from defeat.

So, my emotional conflict flows both ways, sadness for the loss of my Cherokee ancestor's heritage and jubilation for the victory of my overmountian Tennessee ancestors over the British.

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE

BY *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* 2011 REVISED 2ND EDITION 2015



As you can see by this map of Rowan County around 1790, Hunting Creek flows into the South Yadkin River. In 1836, that area became Davie County.

However, Benjamin had already moved into Iredell County by 1810. The original Johnstons had settled at Beaverdam Creek around the 1750's where it meets the South Yadkin River.

Daniel Boone lived near the Johnson's and I feel he exerted a great deal of influence upon their decision to move to Missouri in 1823.

THE DANIEL BOONE INFLUENCE

Squire and Sarah (MORGAN) Boone, Daniel's parents moved from near Reading, Exeter Township, Burks County, Pennsylvania to Rowan County, North Carolina in 1751 and raised his family on Bear Creek in close proximity to the Johnston's, Luckie's, Osborn's, Hunter's and Campbell's. Daniel Boone in his mid teens grew up in the area and knew our ancestors in Rowan County.

After Daniel's Kentucky exploration, and disillusionment with the legal process, he moved to Saint Charles County, Missouri in 1799 where he died in 1820³⁴. There are several historical sites attributed to Daniel Boone including his family log cabin in Saint Charles County, Missouri of which I have seen.

After his death, the State of Kentucky wanted to exhume his remains and bury him in their state. This caused a great deal of uproar in Missouri however, through the courts, Daniel and his wife; Rebecca (BRYAN) Boone's bodies were removed in 1845 and buried in Frankfort Cemetery, Frankfort, Kentucky. However, there is controversy surrounding this burial see...

http://www.ask.com/wiki/Daniel_Boone

Could Daniel Boone's reports of the Missouri area had some influence on the Johnsons and others to move to 1st Saint Charles County, Missouri, then to the Franklin County, Missouri area? Daniel Boone made many trips back into North Carolina before his death in 1820.

After the 1804 Louisiana Purchase, the western migration commenced. A flood of thousands of families desiring a new start, cast their eyes towards Missouri and other western territories. Especially when Missouri was created as a new state in 1821.

Missouri was a contrast in geography, offering mountainous terrain that resembled the mountains of North Carolina and flat fertile river bottoms prime for growing crops.

The Native Americans were friendly up to a point...until the white men proved they could not be trusted and had no honor. Land was cheap and game plentiful.

It was customary for a family member or a group to make an exploratory trip to see the proposed homesteads.

I imagine the Johnsons were no different. Who of the clan made that exploratory trip to Franklin County is unknown to us at this time.

The lure of fertile, cheap, open land and the gentle rolling hills of Franklin County reminded them of their home in Rowan and Iredell Counties of North Carolina.

Franklin County offered them the opportunity for prosperity and a better life for their families.

Is it just coincidence, I found Benjamin Johnson's brother; William Henry Johnson Sr. in the 1830 census of Saint Charles Township, Saint Charles County, Missouri? Or was this Daniel Boone's influence years earlier? After all, they could have gone anywhere!!!

³⁴ **Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia Volume 4**, page 233,234. Funk & Wagnall Inc. (1981)

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE

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The Dysons, Luckies, Dents, Campbells, McCallisters, Osborns, Hunters, Lovelaces and Caldwells all built friendships and associations with the Johnsons each making a piece of Franklin County their homes.

In the process of fellowship, close family ties were forged and with their combined pioneer spirit, tamed a wild frontier and left a rich heritage for their descendants. Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

[End of Benjamin Johnson excerpt from the
"JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI"]

BENJAMIN JOHNS(T)ON...CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE

Benjamin Johns(t)on...Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2011

In harmony with the first law of genealogy or family history research, *i.e.*, documentation, I submit my famous Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile on this subject including all known documentation presented for the serious researcher. This has been done to help the serious researcher continue in their quest for family history knowledge without a duplication of effort. All I ask of you is to acknowledge my contribution to your family history research. My gift to you...Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

1775 Birthblock for Benjamin Johns(t)on son of John Sr. & () Johns(t)son

Benjamin Johns(t)on was born in Rowan County, North Carolina, British Colony on 21 March 1775.
Date from 1800 census states he was born 1775-1784.
Date from 1810 census states he was born 1766-1784.
Date from 1820 census states he was born before 1775.
Date from 1830 census states he was born 1771-1780.
Date from 1840 census states he was born 1771-1780.
Date from 1850 census states he was born 1775 in North Carolina.
Date from headstone calculates out to 31 March 1775.

1775 Birthplace for Benjamin Johnson

Even though Benjamin says in the 1850 census he was born in North Carolina, in the 1880 census of Franklin County, Missouri, his son; Wilson Johnson states his father was born in MD or Maryland. Wilson is living with his nephew; Joseph W. Johnson and nieces.

Research Note

After my discovery of Benjamin and brother; William Henry Johnson's father on my road trip to Rowan County, North Carolina, time did not permit me extensive research to discover John Johns(t)on Sr.'s spouse or his arrival date or birth origin. They may have originally been from Maryland.

For a complete explanation on how I "broke down" Benjamin Johnson as my brick wall read the following "**Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #6 How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall**" master ws.pdf can be accessed at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists> under the list...Genealogical Institute.

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE

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1775 AKA Johnston or Johnson Name

It should be noted the Johnston clan in North Carolina used the "T" in the name. It wasn't until Benjamin moved to Franklin County, Missouri they dropped the "T".

1790 Federal Census age 15

Could not determine which John Johnson was his father.

1795-1799 Marriage of Benjamin Johns(t)on and Amelia Gaston?

Benjamin Johns(t)on and Amelia ?Gatson or Gaston were married between 1795-1799 because their firstborn; Townsend was born in North Carolina in 1799. They may have been married in South Carolina. Under the Marriage Bond custom, the couple usually married in the bride's county of residence. Therefore, further research should take place in the counties of the states that had Gastons in them. Not many in North Carolina but a great many of them in South Carolina. Check marriage bonds for South Carolina counties and if unsuccessful, then focus on Virginia, Maryland. Floyd Thomas Pratt 30 April 2002

1799 Childbirth of son; Townsend Johnson

Townsend Johnson was born near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States on 30 July 1799.

1800 Federal Census age 25

Salisbury, Rowan, North Carolina, United States, page 448,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 1-0-1 0-0-1

free white males 9 & under [Townsend age 1]; 16-25 [Benjamin age 25]

free white females 16-25 [Amelia age 30]

page 447: A few doors above John Johnston family is a Thomas Howard family. Our Benjamin named one of his sons; Thomas Howard Johnson.

page 447: previous page John Johnston 3-1-0-0-1 1-1-1-0-1 [I think his father]

Page 448: Same page Ben is living next door to John Johnston Jun. 0-0-1 1-0-1 [I think his brother]

Page 448: two doors down Samuel Luckie 0-1-0-0-1 0-0-0-1

Page 448: few doors down Samuel Luckie Jun. 3-1-0-1 2-0-0-1

1801-1806 Property Transaction

Rowan County, North Carolina Deed Record Book 1801-1806, Book 18, page 586

James Campbell sold land to Benjamin Johnson.

1800-1802 The Unknown Johnson Son

Take a look at the 1810 Iredell Co. census and note the young boy about Townsend's age between 10-15. Now look at the 1820 census and note the same boy between the ages of 16-25. In the 1810 census he was born 1795-1800. In the 1820 census he was born 1795-1804. That means he was born 1795 to 1804. We know Townsend was first born in 1799. He is the only child listed in the 1800 census. That means this new boy was born 1800-1804.

1. We know that Townsend was the first born being July 30, 1799. (So this boy was born after 1799.)

2. We know that William was born 16 Feb 1803. (So this boy was born before 1803)

3. Subtracting 9 months from William's birthdate gets us May 1802. (This is William's conception date)

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE
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4. Adding 9 months to Townsend's birth gets us April 1800. (This is the earliest birthdate of the new boy.)
 5. That means between April 1800 and May 1802 there could have been another son born.
 6. Between those dates is a period of 2 years and 1 month. Plenty of time for another son.
- So far his identity is unknown.

There is a married James Johnston with a family of his own in the 1830 Boeuff Township, Franklin County, Missouri, census page 140 who was born between 1801-1810. He is the only Johnston listed in that census unaccounted for. All the other Johnston's are Benjamin's age group. Could he be that son? Also, there is an administration for a James Johnson in the probate office of Franklin County, Missouri in Book "A", page 408 filed 7 February 1851. Is he the missing son? If anyone can shed some light on this mystery then please let me know. Since our mystery son shows up in two consecutive censuses, I am going to include him in this family as a possible unknown son. Floyd Thomas Pratt 2009

1803 Childbirth of son; William "Billy" Johnson

William "Billy" Johnson was born near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States on 16 February 1803.

1805 Childbirth of son; Martin Johnson

Martin Johnson was born near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States on 22 March 1805.

1806 Childbirth of son; Dyson Johnson

Dyson Johnson was born near Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, United States on 28 October 1806.

1808-1814 Property Transaction

Rowan County, North Carolina Deed Record Book 1808-1814 Book 18, page 609
Benjamin Johnson sold land to James Pracher.

1808-1810 Family Move

Moved from Rowan County, North Carolina, United States to Iredell County, North Carolina, United States sometime between 1808-1810.

1808 Childbirth of son; Thomas Howard Johnson

Thomas Howard Johnson was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, United States in 1808.

1810 Federal Census age 35

Iredell County, North Carolina, United States, page 155,

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 4-2-0-1-0 0-0-0-1-0

free white males 9 & under [Thomas age 2]; 9 & under [Dyson age 4]; 9 & under [Martin age 5]; 9 & under [William age 7]; 10-15 [unknown son]; 10-15 [Townsend age 11]; 26-44 [Benjamin age 35]

free white females 26-44 [Amelia age 40]

[Living next door to John D. Johnston family, Greenbury Johnston family and a few doors down is William, Barton & Joseph Dyson families.]

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE

BY *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* 2011 REVISED 2ND EDITION 2015

1812 Childbirth of son; Wiley Johnson

Wiley Johnson was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, United States on 6 April 1812.

1815 Childbirth of son; Wilson "Willis" Johnson

Wilson "Willis" Johnson was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, United States circa 1815.

1818 Franklin County, Missouri Territory organized

Though still recognized as the part of the Missouri Territory, in 1812 there were 5 counties; St. Charles, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau and New Madrid. By 1813, Washington County was created and in 1816, Howard County followed by Jefferson, Franklin, Wayne, Lincoln, Madison, Montgomery, Pike and Cooper were created in 1818.

1820 Federal Census age 45

Iredell County, North Carolina, United States, page 247,

JOHNSON, Benjamin 1-3-1-3-0-1 0-0-0-1-1

free white males 9 & under [Wilson age 5]; 10-15 [Wiley age 8]; 10-15 [Thomas age 12]; 10-15 [Dyson age 14]; 16-18 [Martin age 15]; 16-25 [William age 17]; 16-25 [unknown son]; 16-25 [Townsend age 21]; 45+ [Benjamin age 45]

free white females 26-45 [Rebecca (**DYSON**) age 20?] 45+ [Amelia age 50]

[I believe that the female 26-45 is Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson; wife of Townsend Johnson who were married between 1817-1820.]

1821 State of Missouri Created

The land that is now Missouri was acquired from France as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and became known as the Missouri Territory on June 4, 1812. The southeastern portion of the territory was admitted into the union as the State of Missouri the 24th state on August 10, 1821. As other states were created from it's huge territorial boundaries, Missouri settled on its present shape as it is found today.

1823 Family Move

From Iredell, North Carolina, United States to Saint John's Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States. The Benjamin Johnson family arrived in Missouri in 1823. This is proved due to son; Martin carried a whetstone for sharpening knives from North Carolina to Missouri and wrote on stone stating, **"Carried from North Carolina in 1823 by Martin Johnson"**. I have seen the whetstone. For more information see Martin Johnson's file. Their motive for relocation was probably due to the stories of Daniel Boone and others who had been to Franklin and St. Charles County where Daniel settled and died in 1820, the Johnson's and all those allied families from Rowan and Iredell County desired to relocate to this newly formed state of Missouri. With a large family beginning to come of age and needing cheap good fertile soil in which to cultivate and raise their families, I would imagine the property values in Rowan and Iredell Counties of North Carolina were expensive and mostly "farmed" out. Stories of plentiful game and cheap fertile land probably swayed the Johnson's and their allied families to relocate to Franklin County, Missouri. - Floyd Thomas Pratt 2009

Research Note

Even though Benjamin Johnson arrived in Missouri in 1823, he probably was with his brother William Henry Johnson Sr. in Saint Charles County before settling in Franklin County.

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE
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He may have purchased property in either Saint Charles County or Saint Louis before he bought land near Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri in 1828. I did not record ALL his property transactions from the Union Courthouse, in Union, Union Township, Franklin County, Missouri so, there could be more accurate property records indicating when he actually arrived in Franklin County, Missouri.

1828 Property Transaction

[1] U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #1537 10 June 1828
Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 10 June 1828 State of Record: Missouri Acres: 80 Accession Number: MO0040__007 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: No US Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566) Document Number: 1527 Legal Land Description: Last ½ of the SW¼ of Section 35, Twp 44N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

1830 Federal Census age 55

Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 134

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1

free white males 15-19 [Wilson age 15]; 20-29 [Martin age 25]; 20-29 [William age 27]; 50-59

[Benjamin age 55]

free white females 30-39 [??]; 60-69 [Amelia age 60]

[Living next door to son; Dyson & Malinda (**DENT**) Johnson family.]

1835 Property Transaction

U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #4602 1 October 1835

Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 14 January 1836 State of Record: Missouri Acres: 35.64 Accession Number: MO0080__183 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: No US Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566) Document Number: 3709 Legal Land Description: The NE fractional ¼ of the NW¼ Section 35, Twp 43N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

1836 Property Transaction

U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #3709 14 January 1836

Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 1 Oct 1835 State of Record: Missouri Acres: 80 Accession Number: MO0100__063 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: No US Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566) Document Number: 4206 Legal Land Description: The West½ of the NW¼ Section 35, Twp 44N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

1840 Federal Census age 65

Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 215,

JOHNSON, Benj. 0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1

free white males 20-29 [Wilson age 25]; 60-69 [Benjamin age 65]

free white females 70-79 [Amelia age 70]

[Living in close proximity to son; Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family, brother; William & Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**) Johnson family, Son; Wiley & Jane Caroline (**JOHNSON**) Johnson Family, Thomas & Ann () Dyson family, William & ?? Dyson family.]

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE
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1850 Federal Census age 75

District 31, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 89b, 22 October 1850, line 18, house 1126, family 1126

JOHNSON, Benjamin w m 75; Amelia w f 80; Wilson w m 35

[All born in North Carolina. Benjamin is a farmer. Living next door to William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson family and Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family.]

1851 Will of Benjamin Johnson

[1] Franklin County, Missouri Will Record Book "B", page102 dated 1 October 1851

*"I Benjamin Johnson of the County of Franklin and Stat of Missouri do make and sonstitute this my last will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say. First. I will that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid. Secondly, I give devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife **Amelia** Johnson all my Estate both real personal and mixed during her natural life. And Thirdly, At the death of my beloved wife, I give devise and bequeath unto my son **Wilson** Johnson all my property of every kind both real personal and mixed forever. To my other children to wit, **Townsend** Johnson, **Thomas H.** Johnson, **William** Johnson, **Martin** Johnson, **Dyson** Johnson, and **Wiley** Johnson I leave nothering in this will as they have al longs since left me and are well settled and I have already [done] all for them I feel able to do. Fouthly, I have constitute and appointed my son Wilson Johnson executor to this my last will and teastament hereby revolking and annulling all former will by me made and ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In testimony where I have hereunto set my hand and seal this first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty one. signed Ben Johnson Signed published and declared by the above named Benjamin Johnson as and for his last will and testament in presence of us who at his request have signed as witnesses to the same. Attest: Elijah M. Lean and Benj. F. Burch"*

1852 Death of Benjamin "Ben" Johnson

Benjamin Johnson died in District 31, Franklin County, Missouri, United States on 18 February 1852.

[1] Date from the headstone states he died 18 February 1852 aged 76yrs 10mos 18 days.

[2] Date from family bible of William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson states he died 18 February 1852.

1852 Burial of Benjamin "Ben" Johnson

Caldwell-Johnson Cemetery, Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States

Benjamin Johnson died Feb 18, 1852 aged 76yrs 10mos 18days buried next to granddaughter; Ellen Johnson and his son; Dyson Johnson. [However, since was not the actual burial location, the location of the graves in relevance to one another has no validity.]

Research Note

For a complete explanation and history of some of the cemeteries in Franklin County, Missouri especially how they commingled several cemeteries resulting in misnaming them, read the book "**JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY, MISSOURI**" 1st Edition 2002, 2nd Edition 2011 and 3rd Edition in 2015. Posted at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists> Under the list...Pratt Archives Collection

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1852 Benjamin Johnson's Will Recorded & Filed

[1] "State of Missouri, County of Franklin, Personally appeared in open court before the County Court of Franklin County Elijah M. Lean and Benjamin F. Burch who being by me duly sworn upon their oaths that the forgoing instrument of writing purporting to be the last will and testament of Benjamin Johnson was signed by him in our presence and declared by him to be his last will and testament and that he was of sound and disposing mind and memory at the execution of the same, and that we signed our names as witnesses to the same in the presence of the testator and at his request and in the presence of each other. Elijah M. Lean and Benj. f. Burch Sworn to and subscribed before the County Court this 10 day of August 1852. In witness whereof I hereby set my hand and seal of said County Court at office in Union this date last aforesaid. C. S. Jefferies Clerk, R. E. B. Jefferys D.C.

[2] State of Missouri, County of Franklin, The foregoing will of Benjamin Johnson was on this day produced in open court and admitted to probate upon the oaths of Elijah M. Lean and Benjamin F. Burch subscribing witnesses to the same. Witness my hand and seal of said County Court at office in Union this 10th day of August A.D. 1852. C. S. Jefferies Clerk, R. E. B. Jefferys D.C.

[3] State of Missouri, County of Franklin, This will was filed for record August 10th 1852 and recorded same day in Will Book B, pages 102 as following given under my hand and seal of said County Court at office in Union this day and year aforesaid. C. S. Jefferies Clerk, R. E. B. Jefferys D.C."

1853 Will Jacket Probate Transaction

[1] Franklin County, Missouri Will Record Book "J", page 502, 503 on will jacket
"Benjamin Johnson Last Will filed 21 May 1853 C.S. Jeffries, Recorder, Filed 10 August 1852 State of Missouri, County of Franklin-This instrument of writing was filed for record May 21st 1853 and duly recorded July 5th 1853 in Book "J" pages 502 & 503. Witness my hand and seal of office at Union, this date last aforesaid C. S. Jefferies, Recorder and R.E. P. Jeffries D.R."

[End of Cradle to Grave Profile for Benjamin Johnson]

BACK TO THE WILSON R. JOHNSON AND WILSON "WILLIS" JOHNSON

At this point there are several contradictions concerning these two Wilsons. First Wilson R. Johnson was born 3 months after the birth of Wiley Johnson, son of Benjamin and Amelia (_____) Johnson.

Wilson R. Johnson concentrated his efforts in North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. The other Wilson "Willis" Johnson moved in 1823 from Iredell County, North Carolina to Franklin County, Missouri and never went to Tennessee or Alabama.

It was customary for the youngest son in a family to stay home and take care of the parents in their elderly age and in the process was bequeathed all property and chattels of the parent's upon their death. This proves out in Benjamin Johnson's will where he leaves everything to son; Wilson "Willis" Johnson.

Now that we have a good understanding of the Benjamin & Amelia (???) Johnson family of Rowan County, North Carolina, we will discuss their son Wilson "Willis" Johnson.

**CRADLE TO GRAVE PROFILE FOR WILSON "WILLIS" JOHNSON; SON OF
BENJAMIN AND AMELIA (???) JOHNSON**

Wilson "Willis" Johnson...Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. 2011

In harmony with the first law of genealogy or family history research, *i.e.*, documentation, I submit my famous Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile on this subject including all known documentation presented for the serious researcher. This has been done to help the serious researcher continue in their quest for family history knowledge without a duplication of effort. All I ask of you is to acknowledge my contribution to your family history research. My gift to you...Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

1815 Birthblock of Wilson "Willis" Johnson son of Benjamin & Amelia () Johns(t)on

Wilson "Willis" Johns(t)on was born in Iredell County, North Carolina, United States circa 1815.

Date from 1820 census states he was born 1811-1820.

Date from 1830 census states he was born 1811-1815.

Date from 1840 census states he was born 1811-1820.

Date from 1850 census states he was born 1815 in North Carolina.

Date from 1860 census states he was born 1811 in North Carolina.

Date from 1870 census states he was born 1808 in North Carolina.

Date from 1880 census states he was born 1809 in North Carolina.

Date from the headstone states he was born

Date from the obituary states he was born

Research Note

In an attempt to locate Wilson "Willis" Johnson's birth date, we are at the mercy of census information. It appears when he died in 1882; he was buried in the original cemetery where his parents were buried. The citizens of Franklin County, Missouri in their lack of wisdom, allowed a building contractor to bulldoze the headstones and graves of that cemetery into a creek. Sam Caldwell and others rescued **SOME** of the headstones and graves and relocated them into what is now known as the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. When he relocated the headstones, he stated some were so damaged they could not be moved. It is my opinion, Wilson "Willis" Johnson's headstone were one of those that were destroyed. Therefore, obtaining his birth date has been difficult.

The complete story is covered in my book, "**JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY, MISSOURI**" 1st Edition 2002, 2nd Edition 2011 and 3rd Edition in 2015. Posted at

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Under the list...Pratt Archives Collection

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JOHNSON, Benjamin 1-3-1-3-0-1 0-0-0-1-1

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Their motive for relocation was probably due to the stories of Daniel Boone and others who had been to Franklin and St. Charles County where Daniel settled and died in 1820, the Johnson's and all those allied families from Rowan and Iredell County desired to relocate to this newly formed state of Missouri. With a large family beginning to come of age and needing cheap good fertile soil in which to cultivate and raise their families, I would imagine the property values in Rowan and Iredell Counties of North Carolina were expensive and mostly "farmed" out. Stories of plentiful game and cheap fertile land probably swayed the Johnson's and their allied families to relocate to Franklin County, Missouri.
- Floyd Thomas Pratt 2009

Research Note

Even though Benjamin Johnson arrived in Missouri in 1823, he probably was with his brother William Henry Johnson Sr. in Saint Charles County before settling in Franklin County. He may have purchased property in either Saint Charles County or Saint Louis before he bought land near Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri in 1828. I did not record **ALL** his property transactions from the Franklin County Courthouse, in Union, Union Township, Franklin County, Missouri so, there could be more accurate property records indicating when he actually arrived in Franklin County, Missouri.

1828 Father's Property Transaction

[1] U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #1537 10 June 1828
Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 10 June 1828 State of Record: Missouri Acres: 80 Accession Number: MO0040__007 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: No US Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566) Document Number: 1527 Legal Land Description: Last ½ of the SW¼ of Section 35, Twp 44N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

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1830 Federal Census age 15

Saint John's Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 134

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1

free white males 15-19 [**Wilson age 15**]; 20-29 [Martin age 25]; 20-29 [William age 27]; 50-59 [Benjamin age 55]

free white females 30-39 [??]; 60-69 [Amelia age 60]

[Living next door to son; Dyson & Malinda (**DENT**) Johnson family.]

1835 Father's Property Transaction

U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #4602 1 October 1835

Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 14 January 1836 State of Record: Missouri Acres:35.64

Accession Number:MO0080___.183 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: No US Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566) Document Number:3709 Legal Land Description: The NE fractional ¼ of the NW¼ Section 35, Twp 43N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

1836 Father's Property Transaction

U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #3709 14 January 1836

Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 1 Oct 1835 State of Record: Missouri Acres: 80 Accession

Number: MO0100___.063 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: No US

Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566)

Document Number: 4206 Legal Land Description: The West½ of the NW¼ Section 35, Twp 44N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

1840 Federal Census age 25

Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 215,

JOHNSON, Benj. 0-0-0-0-1-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-1

free white males 20-29 [**Wilson age 25**]; 60-69 [Benjamin age 65]

free white females 70-79 [Amelia age 70]

[Living in close proximity to son; Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family, brother; William & Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**) Johnson family, Son; Wiley & Jane Caroline (**JOHNSON**) Johnson Family, Thomas & Ann (**ROBY**) Dyson family, William & ?? Dyson family.]

1850 Federal Census age 35

District 31, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 89b, 22 October 1850, line 18, house 1126, family 1126

JOHNSON, Benjamin w m 75; Amelia w f 80; **Wilson w m 35**

[All born in North Carolina. Benjamin is a farmer. Living next door to William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson family and Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson family.]

1851 Father's Will of Benjamin Johnson

[1] Franklin County, Missouri Will Record Book "B", page102 dated 1 October 1851

"I Benjamin Johnson of the County of Franklin and Stat of Missouri do make and substitute this my last will and Testament in manner and form following that is to say. First. I will that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid. Secondly, I give devise and bequeath unto my beloved wife Amelia Johnson all my Estate both real personal and mixed during her natural life.

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And Thirdly, At the death of my beloved wife, I give devise and bequeath unto my son **Wilson Johnson** all my property of every kind both real personal and mixed forever. To my other children to wit, Townsend Johnson, Thomas H. Johnson, William Johnson, Martin Johnson, Dyson Johnson, and Wiley Johnson I leave nothoring in this will as they have al longs since left me and are well settled and I have already [done] all for them I feel able to do. Fouthly, I have constitute and appointed my son **Wilson Johnson** executor to this my last will and teastament hereby revolking and annulling all former will by me made and ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In testimony where I have hereunto set my hand and seal this first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty one. signed Ben Johnson Signed published and declared by the above named Benjamin Johnson as and for his last will and testament in presence of us who at his request have signed as witnesses to the same. *Attest: Elijah M. Lean and Benj. F. Burch*"

1852 Death of father; Benjamin "Ben" Johnson

Benjamin Johnson died in District 31, Franklin County, Missouri, United States on 18 February 1852.

1859 Death of mother; Amelia ??Gaston or Gatson Johnson

Amelia (???) Johnson died near Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States on 1 November 1859.

1860 Federal Census age 45

South Point Post Office, Saint Johns Twp, Franklin, Missouri, United States, page 110, 13 July 1860, line 35, house 788, family 788

JOHNSON, Wilson w m 49

[Wilson born in North Carolina. Living next door to brother; William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson family.]

1870 Federal Census age 55

Washington Post Office, Washington City, Saint Johns Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 374a, 28 June 1870, line 37, house 921, family 863

JOHNSON, Wilson w m 62; Alvin H. w m 39; Cusumbra w f 28; Edward B. w m 11; Ida w f 8; Alvin A. w m 5;

[Wilson was born in North Carolina, Alvin and the children born in Missouri, Cusumbra was born in Kentucky. Wilson is a farmer.]

Research Note

Nephew; Alvin H. Johnson (1831-1908) son of Brother; Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson married Cassandra (**SMITH**) (1842-1928) daughter of Robert & Cassandra (**JOHNSON**) Smith from Indiana. These children listed with them in the 1870 census are Alvin & Cassandra's.

1880 Federal Census age 65

Saint Johns Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page212a, 7 & 8 June 1880, line 24, house 76, family 77

JOHNSON, Joseph W. w m head 41; Mealy A. sister w f 42; John N. brother w m 28; **LAWRENCE**, Russia sister w f 24; Ada niece w f 4; **JOHNSON**, Fannie sister w f 22; **Wilson uncle w m 71**; **WALKER**, David other w m 27

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[Joseph, Mealy, John N., Russia, Fannie were all born in Missouri, their father in North Carolina their mother in Missouri. Ada was born in Missouri as was her parents. Wilson was born in North Carolina his parents in Maryland. David was born in Mississippi as was his parents. Everyone is single except Russia is a widow. Joseph is a farmer, David is a schoolteacher.]

Research Note

Concerning the 1880 Federal Census, nephew; Joseph Wilson Johnson; niece; Amelia "Mealy" (**JOHNSON**); nephew; John Newberry Johnson; niece; Jerusha "Russia" (**JOHNSON**) Lawrence, daughter of Jerusha; Ada (**LAWRENCE**) and niece; Sarah Frances "Fanny" (**JOHNSON**) were the children of Wilson's brother; William "Billy" & Sarah "Sally" (**STOCKTON**) Johnson.

1882 Death of Wilson "Willis" Johnson

Wilson "Willis" Johnson died in Saint Johns Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States on 12 October 1882.

[1] Date from Bible records states he died 12 October 1882.

[2] William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson's Family Bible records states he died 12 October 1882.

1882 Burial of Wilson "Willis" Johnson

Most likely he is buried in the original Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery with his parents.

Research Note

In an attempt to locate Wilson "Willis" Johnson's birth date, we are at the mercy of census information. It appears when he died in 1882; he was buried in the original cemetery where his parents were buried. The citizens of Franklin County, Missouri in their lack of wisdom, allowed a building contractor to bulldoze the headstones and graves of that cemetery into a creek. Sam Caldwell and others rescued **SOME** of the headstones and graves and relocated them into what is now known as the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. When he relocated the headstones, he stated some were so damaged they could not be moved. It is my opinion, Wilson "Willis" Johnson's headstone were one of those that were destroyed. Therefore, obtaining his birth date has been difficult.

The complete story is covered in my book, "**JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY, MISSOURI**" 1st Edition 2002, 2nd Edition 2011 and 3rd Edition in 2015. Posted at

<https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>

Under the list...Pratt Archives Collection

[End of Cradle to Grave Profile for Wilson "Willis" Johnson]

DEBUNKING THE TWO WILSONS...

Here's what we know.

1. Wilson R. Johnson was born in June 1812 in North Carolina or Virginia. Also, in April 1812 Amelia (_____) Johnson was giving birth to son; Wiley Johnson.
2. Wilson R. Johnson was born in North Carolina or Virginia, moved to either Cumberland County, Kentucky or Overton County, Tennessee in time to marry in 1838.

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3. Wilson "Willis" Johnson never married and in 1823 made the trip from Iredell County, North Carolina to Franklin County, Missouri with his family and remained there his whole life.
4. Wilson "Willis" Johnson is accounted for in the 1820 census of Iredell County, North Carolina, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 census of Franklin County, Missouri.
5. Wilson R. Johnson married and had a large family in Overton and Clay Counties, Tennessee. Wilson "Willis" Johnson never married.
6. If Wilson R. Johnson was the son of Benjamin and Amelia, then why did they name another son, Wilson in 1815? They didn't because they are two different people from two different families.
7. If Wilson R. Johnson was the son of Benjamin and Amelia, then why didn't he go to Missouri with his family 1823? Because they were not his family.
8. Wilson R. Johnson and descendants never names one of their sons...Benjamin or any daughters...Amelia.
9. The Johnson's from Rowan County, North Carolina were wealthy and had substantial financial security. They built an empire in Franklin County with friends and family from North Carolina. Many of their children intermarried with the North Carolina families from Rowan County. Many of those families came to Missouri to share in the wealth and prosperity with the Johnson family. Why didn't Wilson R. Johnson family settled in Missouri near his alleged parents? Because they were not his parents.
10. Wilson R. Johnson names his sons, Andrew, Foster, James, Richard, Wilson, and Lafayette. Benjamin and Amelia did not name any sons, those names other than Wilson "Willis" Johnson born 3 years after Wilson R. Johnson.
11. Wilson R. and Savina's daughter; Mary Margaret named her sons; John, James, Thomas, George, Curtis, Sherman, Leslie, Andrew, William McKinley. No Benjamin's or Amelia's in that family.
12. Wilson R. and Savina's daughter; Sarah J. (**JOHNSON**) Arney names her son George Washington. No Benjamin's or Amelia's in that family.
13. Wilson R. and Savina's son; Andrew Foster Johnson names his son William Begin McKinley Johnson. No Benjamin's or Amelia's in that family.
14. Wilson R. and Savina's son; James P. Johnson names his son Wilson L. Johnson. No Benjamin's or Amelia's in that family.
15. Wilson R. and Savina's son; Richard M. Johnson named his sons; Joseph Wilson, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Lee, William Thomas, Samuel and Richard. No Benjamin's or Amelia's in that family.

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16. Wilson R. and Savina's son; Wilson Lafayette "Fate" Johnson named his sons; **Wilson** Edgar, George Lafayette, Christopher Columbus, David Galton, Willard, Walter Harris, Floyd Jockey, Roy Althel and Dewey Creed. No Benjamin's or Amelia's in that family.
17. Wilson R. and Savina's daughter; Margie (**JOHNSON**) Johnson named her sons; Garl, Howard and Harry. No Benjamin's or Amelia's in that family.
18. No descendant of Wilson R. and Savina names their sons either Benjamin or a daughter Amelia. Because they were not part of Wilson R. Johnson's family.
19. In the 1880 census, Wilson R. Johnson states his father was from England and his mother was from North Carolina. Wilson "Willis" Johnson's father; Benjamin Johnson was born in 1775 in Rowan County, North Carolina not England.
20. In the 1900 and 1910 census, Wilson R. Johnson's daughter; Mary Margaret stated she did not know where her father was born, yet her father Wilson was still living with her in the 1900 census and he stated he was born in North Carolina. This shows a lack of knowledge from her about her father's history.
21. In the 1930 census, Mary Margaret stated her parents were born in Virginia. This could also be a possible location of Wilson R. Johnson's parentage.
22. Wilson R. Johnson died in 1905 in Tennessee and Wilson "Willis" Johnson died in 1882 in Missouri.

I wrote a chapter in the *M.A.G.I.* course to help those of you who have "brick walls". "*Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #6 How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall*" master ws.pdf can be accessed at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists> under the list...Genealogical Institute.

Enclosed is that chapter...

"HOW TO BREAKDOWN YOUR BRICK WALL"

by *Floyd Thomas Pratt M.A.G.I.* © 2011 revised 2015

OBJECTIVE

To acquaint the researcher with various techniques in identifying the parentage of their ancestor when no direct information can be found, consequently known in the genealogy field as "brick walls."

After 40 years of family history research, the question I am most often asked..."How do I breakdown my brick wall?"

A brick wall is an ancestor that you run across that just seems to pop-up out of thin air. You can't seem to find information about them or their parentage.

Either, this ancestor is the end-of-the-line in your family history tree or because of a lack of information about them, they create an end-of-line problem. We all have them.

Usually these ancestors are pre-1850 census ancestors. It is frustrating when you run across these individuals because we can't find or build any bridges.

BRIDGES

A bridge is an event, item, document, or source that bridges one individual to another. These bridges can be obtained from several sources.

[1] Birth certificates bridge the person being born to their parents and bridges the parents to one another.

Birth certificates are the most reliable and best source for bridging family individuals. Usually giving the date, place and time of birth of the individual. Also, disclosing the parent's ages and address and sometimes the occupation of both parents.

[2] Census records bridge children to the parents and bridge parents to one another.

Census records connect family members to one another and relatives, such as parents, aunts and uncles and grandparents in close vicinity to the subject of interest.

Census records disclose ages, domicile, names, gender, marital information, children born and living, state in which they were born, state in which parent's were born, occupation, value of property and home ownership.

[3] Marriage certificates bridge a man and woman to one another. Sometimes listing the parents of the groom and the bride.

Marriage certificates reveal the subject's name, domicile, age range, and location of the marriage, officiator, consenting parents and date of the marriage.

[4] Newspaper articles can bridge individuals within a family and help to identify other family members.

Newspaper articles either written as a "newsy" item concerning the inhabitants of a locale or birth or death notices, obituaries, business arrangements, legal announcements and property transactions can reveal relationships to our subject of interest.

[5] Death certificates can help bridge children to parents and spouses to each other.

Death certificates like birth certificates can reveal vital, reliable information concerning your subject.

[6] Wills are good records for bridging spouses to each other and children to parents.

Wills or intestate papers can reveal close relationships between individuals especially when they contain property bequeathed to family members. These records can reveal children of the parent and spouses of those children either by name or by reference to a married surname.

[7] Deed and property transactions are good bridges, sometimes identifying spouses and offering valuable information about the sellers and/or purchasers.

Deed records sometimes reveal not only the domicile of the sellers but can also reveal the previous domicile of the buyer. In the event of a forced sale, or a distressed sale, sometimes death information and/or marriage information is recorded within the deed. Previous locations of the parties involved can be a clue as to where they had previously domiciled.

[8] Photographs that have identifying markers on the photo identifying the participants in the photo make good bridges.

Old family photographs, if they have proper identifying marks on the back can help to identify ancestors and sometimes dates and locations are revealed.

[9] Criminal and legal documents make good bridges between relatives.

Involvement in local politics either through criminal or legal transactions can reveal family relationships and are a good source of dating the location, place and time of an ancestor's activity.

[10] Military participation documents can give locale, relative and personal information about individuals and their families.

Service in one of the many military engagements, during the lifetime of the ancestor can reveal family relationships, through, enlistment, discharge and/or pension applications.

[11] Bible and church records bridge children to parents and parents to each other.

In early American history, the local church was a focal point for social as well as religious activity. Churches usually kept birth, baptismal, confirmation and burial information concerning our ancestors.

These records, depending on the Church affiliation, is a great source of linking families especially prior to the 1850's.

WHAT DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE DO YE LACK?

In order to see past the "brick wall" one must first see where our "brick wall" has been.

If you are familiar and use the Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile as outlined in "*Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #5 The Anatomy of the Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profile*" master ws.pdf can be accessed at <https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists> under the list...Genealogical Institute.

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This creation of the (C2G) profile was not just a whim, but a carefully developed process to validate all the sources that mentions your ancestor's birth date and birth location.

If your brick wall has been participating in pre-1850 census records then you have an approximate birth date...even if it is only a 10-year range.

If you are lucky enough to have more than one source of a birth date then this will make it easier to find additional information about your ancestor.

If you can produce, spouses and children then this also helps to identify your ancestor's parentage.

After you have, as they say, "done your homework" and produced a C2G profile on your brick wall then it is time to concentrate on their parentage.

OPTIONS...START WITH THE OBVIOUS

Under the heading "**Bridges**" I listed 11 sources that can help link or "bridge" one person to another.

Now we are going to concentrate on where to find these "bridges".

If you are having trouble with your brick wall's parental identification, then most likely you have not processed all the resources available to you...unless these sources have been destroyed through "**perils**" such as war, fire, flood, negligence and deterioration and/or there never were any written records.

We are going to assume your "brick wall" is not someone who can be found easily if you would look in all the right places.

These would be people of interest of the 17th and 18th centuries where not much data is available.

We are going to figure we are looking for an "end-of-line" person in you family tree.

The following is a list of possible resources available to help identify your ancestor's parentage.

FINDING PEOPLE IN PRE-1850 AMERICA

If I were looking for the parents of someone in pre-1850 America, I would first follow the following list in order.

[1] Check all ancestral databases online to see if someone else had posted your ancestor and/or their parents.

This would include but not exclusively; ancestry.com, family search, new family search, Rootsweb, Kindred Konnections and so forth. The more databases you check the more information you will find. Also, Google your ancestor's name to see what can be found. If the desired results have not been obtained move on to section 2.

[2] Check all local libraries in the county where your ancestor first made an appearance.

If your ancestor, referred to as your “brick wall” shows up in the 1850 census in a certain county in a certain state or territory, then looking at the family history material of that library in that county might reveal the desired results. Sometimes, local families wrote books or manuscripts about their ancestors and donated copies to the local libraries.

Also, maybe several transcribers transcribed marriage, deed, court or other notable legal documents and placed a copy of those books in the local library.

[3] Check local Historical Society's in the county in which your ancestor lived.

Almost every county in every state not only has a local historical society, but chapters of various organizations such as the DAR and the SAR and other affiliated groups. Members of these organizations pride themselves on their thorough research and have invested much time, effort and expense in validating their ancestor's participation in political and/or American military conflicts. The DAR has a library in Washington D.C. several stories full of ancestral history. Many times a county has a designated historian that all the locals turn to for ancestral reference and/or advice. Seek these people out to inquire about your ancestor.

[4] Check the first courthouse of the county that your ancestor lived in.

When visiting the courthouse, plan to spend several days in order to really access their records.

Not only are the marriage and divorce record books kept there, but also the deed, property transactions and court and other legal books, some as obscure as brand name books that were used to record the names of your ancestor and the brand that they used on their livestock.

Also, at the courthouse are county atlases, which usually listed individuals within the county at a certain time and some even lists where these individuals came from before they moved to the county.

[5] Check local newspapers of the county where your ancestor first made an appearance.

Each county usually had one-maybe two local newspapers servicing the county. These newspapers overlapped county lines so an event mentioning your ancestor may have been carried in several newspapers with the tri-county area.

Not only obituaries, but these newspapers also had local “newsy” items from each of their distinctive communities. These items talked about the locals visiting relatives on trips or relatives came to visit them.

They mentioned birth, death and divorce information, new or old business alliances, men and women serving in the military, burial information and other events of interest to the citizens of that time and place.

[6] Check all available census records after the birth of your ancestor.

If you “brick wall” ancestor has been identified in the 1850 and subsequent census records until their death, then with that collaborating evidence a birth date and location should have been revealed and substantiated.

Prior to the 1850 census you must project a “mock” census for the years of 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840. A “mock” census is a hypothetical census you create to project, if and what your ancestor’s family would look like in that particular census year.

For instance, if your ancestor in the 1850 census says he is 47 years old and born in Tennessee, with a wife age 45 born in Missouri and a son aged 17 born in Missouri, then the 1840 census should show his age bracket between 30-39 and his wife’s age bracket between 30-39 and his son’s age bracket between 5-9.

Also, be flexible, in that there may have been more children that did not survive or married and left the house...or a previous marriage with additional children.

By setting up a “mock” 1840 census the above example would look like this...

Ancestor’s name 0-1-0-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1

With this example, you would check every 1840 census starting with the county they lived in according to the 1850 census and check for your ancestor’s name with similar or matching criteria.

Since his wife, according to the 1850 census, was born in Missouri in 1805, which is incorrect because Missouri had not become a state until 1821, would indicate that she was born somewhere else. You should look for a marriage record prior to the birth of the son in 1837 in Missouri and after her marrying age at around 15-19, which would be 1820 to 1824.

Since she was ready for marriage in the 1820’s she may have been previously married.

Once you have identified your ancestor and his family in the 1840 census, then continue with your projections and create a “mock” census for the 1830 census.

Continue this process until either you have an approximate county and state of your ancestor’s birth or the census records are not available for the areas in which you need to research.

[7] Take a road trip to the county your ancestor first made an appearance.

Once you have an approximate state and county from which your ancestor originated...then it is time for the most vital step in your ancestor’s parental identification.... the road trip.

No amount of time on the Internet, no amount of data on his life, no amount of information is as important as the personal one on one road trip.

If your ancestor came from Botetourt County, Virginia, then Fincastle or bust!

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When you get to the County seat of your ancestor's origin, then reapply items [2] through [5] from above and begin your exciting adventure.

If your experience is anything like mine, you will be overwhelmed with the amount of information available about your "lost" or "brick wall" ancestor.

I would not be surprised if you not only found the parents of your "brick wall" but you would also find several additional generations.

THIS IS NOT LIP SERVICE BUT HANDS-ON RESULTS

Many of you may feel I make up these course topics to feed my ego or vanity. I assure you, after 40 years of family history researching, everything I will ask of you, I have done and in spades.

Case in point, my 3rd Great Grandfather; Benjamin Johnson was one of my "brick walls". Not only was he a brick wall to me, but also to a dozen other Johnson researchers who had been trying to identify his parents long before I took up the mantle in 1975.

I did my usual C2G Profile and was not finding any results in my research. Of course, being human, I wanted someone else to hand me the information I needed and dump it into my lap.

However, this was not to be the case. Since there was no Internet back then, I began with step [2] and continued to step [7].

What all the other researchers had was that Benjamin Johnson was born 31 March 1775 in North Carolina and he had married Amelia (??**GASTON**) or Gatson around 1795-1799 and had moved to Franklin County, Missouri before the 1830 census.

His birthdate was calculated off of his headstone, which stated he died 18 February 1852 aged 76yrs 10mos 18 days. This calculated to be a birthdate of 31 March 1775.

After running C2G Profiles on each of his children hoping some document would disclose their home in North Carolina, I came to the realization I was going to have to actually go to North Carolina and do some hard core research.

PREPARATION...

Before I could embark into the records and files of North Carolina, I needed to know where I was going.

I began by checking all the local libraries in Franklin County, Missouri, where he had been living since 1823. [step 2]

The library system of Franklin County belongs to a conglomerate that connects several counties making books available to less affluent counties for their patron's to read.

So, by researching in the Franklin County main library I was able to cover much material from several counties.

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Trying to identify where he came from in North Carolina, again, no such luck.

Moving on to step 3, I checked the courthouse for any identifying papers and materials that related to my Benjamin Johnson.

I discovered multiple land acquisitions and sales (over 30) and his will and other family documents.

However, none of these sources gave me a clue as to where in North Carolina his came from.

My next step and most arduous task was backtracking him through the census records...step 6.

PRE 1850 CENSUS RECORDS...

Early efforts in understanding the pre-1850 census records have prepared me for the understanding I now possess when tracking client's ancestors.

I found the 1830 & 1840 census records were taken after 1 June 1830 and after 1 June 1840. This is important when assessing a child's birth date.

I also discovered, these two census schedules were "set-up" in an identical format.

The ranges of ages were listed in 13 columns.

The first column was for children aged 4 & under.

Up until now, I have been aggravated by transcribers using the 0-5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20 *etc*, age brackets when the census forms are clearly marked age 4 & under, 5-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29 *etc*.

For 20 years they continued to use the "old ladies" method of recording census records. The reason I call that method the "old ladies" method is because prior to the 1950's most family history research was done by older women, some widows, who published books on the census records and used that method of age identification. I have seen new material now where those errors have been corrected...finally.

Following is a table I created to help understand these census records.

1830 & 1840 Census Key												
Males & Females												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4 and under	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100 +

The easiest way to count in the 1830 & 1840 census is to start with 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 *etc*.

This applies to your ancestor after the name... example; 0-1-5-0-1

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Using the above example, you know he had no sons 4 or under and 1 son aged 5-9, 5 sons aged 10-14, and 1 male age 20-29.

Of course the females follow the males and are in a separate bracket than the males so the first 13 columns are the males and the next 13 columns are the females.

I found Benjamin Johnson with his family in the 1830 census as depicted:

1830 Federal Census age 55

Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States, page 134

JOHNSTON, Benjamin 0-0-0-1-2-0-0-1 0-0-0-0-0-1-0-0-1

Free white males 15-19 [Wilson age 15]; 20-29 [Martin age 25]; 20-29 [William age 27]; 50-59
[Benjamin age 55]

Free white females 30-39 [??]; 60-69 [Amelia age 60]

[Living next door to son; Dyson & Malinda (**DENT**) Johnson family.]

Using the birth data about his children from subsequent census information, I was able to “insert” their names and approximate ages.

This is tricky because you must know everything about the children in order for this to work.

You cannot list married children in the family if they had already been married by the census date and were living in separate households.

My problem was...where was he in the 1820 census and prior? His son Martin is my 2nd Great Grandfather.

Now this gets tricky...many of the eastern states' census records prior to 1830 were “lost” to one of the perils I listed.

Since I did not know when Benjamin and family came to Franklin County, then I was handcuffed because I didn't know if he came to Franklin County before 1820 or after and to complicate the research more...Missouri lost all their census records prior to 1830!

Checking the Deed records in the Franklin County, Missouri Courthouse I came up with a land purchase dated 10 June 1828.

1828 Property Transaction

[1] U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 Certificate #1537 10 June 1828

Name: Benjamin Johnson Issue Date: 10 June 1828 State of Record: Missouri Acres: 80 Accession Number: MO0040__ .007 Metes and Bounds: No Land Office: St. Louis Canceled: o US

Reservations: No Mineral Reservations: No Authority: April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry (3 Stat. 566)

Document Number: 1527 Legal Land Description: Last ½ of the SW¼ of Section 35, Twp 44N, Range 1W, 5th PM Meridian in Franklin County, Missouri.

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See the *M.A.G.I.* course “**Grantee or Grantor...What’s that Mean?**” for additional help in reading and plotting deeds.

This property purchase, told me they were in the Franklin County, area in 1828.

Knowing Benjamin was from North Carolina, I decided to take a chance and investigate the 1820 census data of the whole state of North Carolina.

TALK ABOUT A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK...

This is my census grid for the 1820 Federal Census.

1820 Census Key										
Males						Females				
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5
9 and under	10-15	16-18	16-25	26-44	45 and over	9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over

Children aged 9 and under are recorded in modern day math as <9, which means less than 9.

Men aged 45 and over are recorded in modern day math as 45>, which means aged 45 and greater.

Upon a close examination, the males’ ages 16-18 contains no differentiating process from males aged 16-25. But, that’s the way the government did it.

Looking at the census books...yes back in those days we didn’t have computers or on-line census data or easy to find with a push of a button census information.

We had to go to the local library, where we lived, and look at their census books, if we were lucky and they had a genealogy department. I needed to check the census books for all the Benjamin Johnsons in the 1820 Federal Census of North Carolina.

Many of the books had listed the participants by names and counties only with no persons in the household listed. I wrote down all the Benjamin Johnson and Benjamin Johnston’s in the 1820 census.

Once I found all the Benjamin Johns(t)on’s I was looking for, I had to go and get the microfilm and sit down at a microfilm machine and look that particular Benjamin Johnson up on that film and record his household.

I repeated this for every Benjamin Johns(t)son I had in the 1820 North Carolina Federal Census records and there were many.

In order to “match” all those Benjamin Johns(t)son with my ancestor I was looking for, I had to create a “mock 1820 census.”

DON'T MOCK ME OR A MOCKING WE WILL GO...

A mock census record is a projection of the way, based on your available research, how the family you are looking for should be portrayed in earlier census records.

For instance, I had Benjamin Johnson's complete family with names and birthdates so it would be easy to produce a 1820 mock census.

This is what his 1820 mock census should look like...

His oldest son, Townsend Johnson had married around 1817-1820, he was born 30 July 1799 according to headstone information.

Therefore, I could not count on him being with the family in the 1820 census.

The next son; William "Billy" Johnson born 16 February 1803 also according to headstone information. He would be age 17 by the 1820 census.

The next son; my 2nd GGrandfather; Martin Johnson was born 22 March 1805 would be age 15 by the 1820 census.

The next son; Dyson Johnson was born 28 October 1806 would be age 14.

The next son; Thomas Howard Johnson born 1808 would be age 12.

The next son; Wiley Johnson born 6 April 1812 would be age 8.

The last-born we think... Wilson "Willis" Johnson born 1815 would be age 5.

Yep...no daughters...that we know of.

Based on the above information the 1820 mock census of North Carolina for Benjamin Johnson family should look like this...

JOHNSON, Benjamin males 2-3-1-1?-either 1 or 45> and 1 females would be Amelia was 6 years older than Benjamin so she would be 45>.

Free white males <9 [Wilson age 5]; <9 [Wiley age 8]; 10-15 [Thomas age 12]; 10-15 [Dyson age 14]; 10-15 [Martin age 15]; 16-18 [William age 17]; 16-25 [maybe Townsend if he wasn't married yet age 21]; 45> [Benjamin age 45]

Also you must be mindful that maybe your ancestor spelled their name differently than they do today, take into account census takers were not very literate and many phonetically spelled the names.

Applying all the variables that could be my Benjamin Johns(t)on family I came up with this.

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Johns(t)on, Benjamin males 23211 females ????1
 231?1 ????1??
 23111 ????1??
 231010 ????1??
 231001 ????1??

This is what I found...1820 North Carolina census

			Males-females
Ben. Johnson	Ashe Co.	Page 10	111210-20010
Benjamin Johnson	Duplin Co.	Page 194	000001-00011-10
Benjamin Johnson	Johnston Co.	Page 272	000001-10110-02
Benjamin Johnson	Warren Co.	Page 802	000002-00011-03
Benjamin Johnson	Duplin Co.	Page 194	000010-10100
Benjamin Johnson	Wilkes Co.	Page 495	000101-20101
Benjamin Johnson	Surry Co.	Page 672	010101-00101
Benjamin Johnson	Edgecombe Co.	Page 104	000101-20101
Benjamin Johnson	Stokes Co.	Page 352	100010-00010
<u>Benjamin Johnson</u>	<u>Iredell Co.</u>	<u>Page 247</u>	<u>131301-00011</u>
Benjamin Johnson	Wilkes Co.	Page 495	200010-10010-01
Benjamin Johnson	Cumberland Co.	Page 144	210001-30001-11
<u>Benjamin Johnson, Jr.</u>	<u>Surry Co.</u>	<u>Page 672</u>	<u>220001-12101</u>
Benjn Johnson, Sr.	Cumberland Co.	Page 146	000001-02001
Benj. Johnson	Onslow Co.	Page 332	000101-21010-01
<u>Benj. Johnson</u>	<u>Iredell Co.</u>	<u>Page 233</u>	<u>111201-00401</u>
Benj. Johnson	Northampton Co.	Page 240	200010-00010
Benj. Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 230	200010-32110-06

The only families that came close to my mock-up were the following...

[1] Benjamin Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 247	131301-00011
[2] Benjamin Johnson, Jr.	Surry Co.	Page 672	220001-12101
[3] Benj. Johnson	Iredell Co.	Page 233	111201-00401

I knew that Benjamin had married Amelia (???**GASTON**) around 1795-1799 before son Townsend was born in 1799.

So, I wanted to try to find a county that had some Gaston, Gatson, Gaskin or Gadsen families in it. Also, I knew that Townsend had married Rebecca (**DYSON**) in North Carolina so I wanted a county reflecting some Dyson families nearby.

I dismissed Number [2] because he had daughters and my Benjamin Johnson did not have any daughters...that I was aware of. I also dismissed number [3] because he too had daughters. So number [1] was looking good.

Using the actual 1820 census data from above I applied the known children and came up with the following table;

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CENSUS: 1820 IREDELL CO., NC PAGE 247			
BENJAMIN JOHNSON	1-3-1-3-0-1		0-0-0-1-1
Ages	Free white males	Ages	Free white females
9 & Under	Wilson age 5	26-44	Rebecca (DYSON) age 20
10-15	Wiley age 8	Over 45	Amelia age 50
10-15	Thomas Howard age 12		
10-15	Dyson age 14		
16-18	Martin age 15		
16-25	William age 17		
16-25	Unknown Son????		
16-25	Townsend age 21		
Over 45	Benjamin age 45		

It appears newly married Townsend and Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson were living with his parents.

Even though this was a major breakthrough, I was still cautious because I could be wrong in the assumptions.

Now it was time to get really radical...more projections.

TAKE THEM ALL THE WAY BACK...

Now that I was reasonably certain that Iredell County, North Carolina was where I should look, I decided to take the mock census back to the 1810 Federal Census.

This is the Census Grid for the 1810 Federal Census...

1810 Census Key									
Males					Females				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over	9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over

This is what I was reasonably sure I was looking for... Benjamin Johns(t)on Males 41?1? females ???1?-??

I was not surprised to find what I found in the 1810 Federal Census of North Carolina. My interest had shifted from Iredell County to Rowan County because several of the **allied families' names** popped up in the 1810 Rowan County, North Carolina census.

Notice the little numbers above the census numbers? These are the columns on the 1810 census *i.e.*, 1-5 are the males, 6-10 are the females.

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1810 Federal Census of Rowan County, NC.					
		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Page 263	William Todd	10010-33110	Page 266	John Johnston	10010-10100
Page 276	James Johnson	01001-01210	Page 276	<u>William Johnson</u>	<u>00100-00100</u>
Page 276	John Johnson	00200-00100	Page 277	Eliza Johnson	01000-00001
Page 279	Richard Johnson	00010-20010	Page 281	<u>Benjamin Johnson</u>	<u>30101-02110</u>
Page 292	John Johnston	00201-00001	Page 292	Basil Disen	00010-00001
Page 294	Valentine Hunter	<u>00010-00300</u>	Page 297	John Hunter	20100-01000
Page 297	Rosey Hunter	00101-03101	Page 302	Manchester Johnson	00100-00100
Page 302	Nathaniel Johnson	11211-02101	Page 305	John Jameson	00010-00001
Page 307	James Jameson	20010-10010	Page 307	William Jameson	00001-00011
Page 307	William Gibson	30110-00010	Page 312	Samuel Johnston	00200-10100
Page 312	William Luckey	12101-11110	Page 312	William Johnson	30010-10010
Page 312	John Johnson	20010-30110	Page 313	Richard Luckey	11010-01000
Page 313	Samuel Luckey	21010-21111	Page 313	Robert Luckey	01010-21110
Page 315	James Todd	1210-01110	Page 316	Thomas Dent	01001-71011
Page 317	Towsen Dent	30010-11110	Page 317	John B. Dent	00010-00100
Page 322	George Johnson	00201-00101	Page 326	Zacaria Johnson	30010-1010

Several of the Dent children settled in Franklin County and married into local families. Valentine Hunter settled in Franklin County, Missouri. The Luckey family as well as the Niblock family settled in Franklin County, Missouri.

I started to see a pattern with Johns(t)on associations with allied families.

The Benjamin Johnson on page 281 seemed to have all the ducks (children) in a row...except for a major discrepancy...he had daughters.

Benjamin names one of his sons; Townsend, look at Towsen Dent. Benjamin lives close to Basil Disen, his son Townsend married Rebecca (**DYSON**). Benjamin names one of his sons; Dyson Johnson.

However, I do have my problems with this census as stated...

[1] If this is our Benjamin in Rowan Co., NC then where's his son, Thomas Howard Johnson in this census? According to the 1850 Franklin Co., MO census, he should have been born in 1808. Therefore, he should have been listed as age 2 in this census.... unless he was actually born after 1810. Also, who are the females?

[2] Another problem with the 1810 Rowan Co., NC census is it shows Benjamin as 45 and over. Actually he would have been 35.

If this was not our Benjamin maybe we should look at the 1810 census of Iredell County, North Carolina.

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1810 Federal Census of Iredell County, NC					
		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10			1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Page 154	William Dyson		Page 154	Barton Dyson	
Page 154	Joseph Dyson		Page 155	Thomas Lovelace	02001-10201
Page 155	John D. Johnston	10010-30010	Page 155	Benjamin Johnston	42010-00010
Page 155	Greenbury Johnston	20010-10010	Page 156	Adam Johnston	10311-20511
Page 157	Robert Johnson	10010-01010	Page 171	Thomas Johnston	21001-13010
Page 174	Andrew Johnston	21110-41010	Page 174	John Johnston	00010-none
Page 191	Assa Johnston	31010-12010	Page 191	Polly Dyson	10000-13010
Page 198	James Johnston	30210-21010	Page 199	James Johnston	31011-31010
Page 199	John Johnston	10010-20010	Page 199	Benjamin Johnston	00010-30010
Page 201	Sally Lovelace	?0000-2?001	Page 202	George Lucky	00201-00100
Page 202	George Lucky	03101-00101	Page 203	Cossy Lovelace	none 11010
Page 203	Benjamin Johnston	21101-31110	Page 205	Baker Johnston	01100-00100
Page 206	Jesse Johnston	20010-10100			

Bingo, however, I have problems with this census also...

[1] Concerning the 1810 Iredell Co. census, On page 155, Benjamin has listed 6 sons and there is room for Thomas who is listed as 9 & under, which he would have been age 2 and another boy is listed as 10-15. Benjamin is correctly listed in the 26-44 age zone and there are no daughters.

[2] Couple this with the fact that we found in the deed records Benjamin sold land in Rowan Co., NC in 1808 then we can conclude he moved to Iredell between 1808-1810.

[3] Another powerful piece of evidence is the fact that a few doors down is **William, Barton and Joseph Dyson**. William's daughter, Rebecca married Benjamin's son, Townsend between 1815-1819. Note: Iredell Co., NC marriage records lost in courthouse fires.

[4] John D., Benjamin & Greenbury Johnston are living next door to one another. I believe they are all brothers.

[5] So, I believe the census of Iredell Co. is the correct one. Just who the boy is between 10-15 is a mystery.

[6] Notice Benjamin is now using a "t" in the Johnston surname.

This is what the Grid looks like...

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CENSUS: 1810 IREDELL Co., NC, PAGE 502			
BENJAMIN JOHNSTON	4-2-0-1		0-0-0-1
Ages	Free white males	Ages	Free white females
9 & Under	Thomas age 2	26-44	Amelia age 40
9 & Under	Dyson age 4		
9 & Under	Martin age 5		
9 & Under	William age 7		
10-15	Unknown Son?????		
10-15	Townsend age 11		
26-44	Benjamin age 36		

I hope you are seeing a pattern in this method of research. What I have been teaching you is the key to solving and breaking down your "brick walls." Now is the time to take the census record back another ten years.

1800 FEDERAL CENSUS

After fitting Benjamin's family in the 1810 Iredell County, North Carolina census, I was hoping to find a newly wedded Benjamin and Amelia (_____) Johnston with at least a 1-year-old son (Townsend) in the 1800 census.

But first I must bring you up to date on the 1800 Federal Census...yep-same format as the 1810 census.

1800 Census Key									
Males					Females				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over	9 and under	10-15	16-25	26-44	45 and over

The following was found in the **1800 Rowan Co., North Carolina** Census:

On page (448):
Benjamin JOHNSTON 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 ◀

Next to Benjamin JOHNSTON is:
 John JOHNSTON Jun. 001 101

On same page (448) with Benjamin JOHNSTON are:
 Samuel LUCKIE 01001 10001
 Samuel LUCKIE Jun. 3101 2001

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On previous page (447) is:

John JOHNSTON (SR)	31001 11101
Thomas HOWARD	001 101

My comments about the above census are as follows...

- [1] Since we know that Benjamin & Amelia had son; Townsend in 1799, we would expect Benjamin to be at least 25 years of age and Amelia to be around the same age. Even though she is listed in the older census records as being 5 years older than Benjamin. John Johnston Jun is in the same age bracket as our Benjamin. This is a strong indication that he was a brother. If he was...then John Johnston Sr. on page 447 was the father of our Benjamin, John Jr, & William Henry. John Johnston Sr. is the last entry on page 447 and John Jr. is the first entry on page 448 followed by Benjamin. Two doors up from John Johnston Sr. is a Thomas Howard & family. Benjamin named one of his sons, Thomas Howard Johnson.
- [2] I have now concluded through research that Samuel Luckey Jr. is the father of John Luckey who came with the Johnston's to Missouri in 1823. John Luckey is buried in the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery outside Washington, Franklin Co., MO. with his daughters and sons, Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**) Johnson and Esther (**LUCKEY**) Daughtery Johnson and Franc Luckey and John F. Luckey. (See the Lucky notes). All buried in Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery.
- [3] Don't get confused; John Luckey (1786-1853) is Elizabeth (**LUCKEY**)'s (1788-1861) brother. She married William Henry Johnston Sr. in 1816, Rowan Co., NC.
- [4] Concerning William Henry Johnson Sr., (1784-1857) born in Rowan Co., NC, according to his daughter's article, Jane Caroline (**JOHNSON**) (1819-1903), which stated they came from Rowan Co., NC. In the 1800 census he would be 16 years old. Notice under John Johnston (Sr.) he has a son age 10-15 years old. Taking into account of the various age differences reported by poor memories, I feel this is our William who lives next door to Benjamin in the 1850 Franklin Co., MO. census.

I visited Edwin Johnson in Satellite Beach, Florida and he showed me a whetstone in his possession.

Edwin Johnson, son of James Millard Johnson Jr. was given a whetstone used for sharpening knives by his father. This was a very special whetstone because it belonged to Martin Johnson my 2nd GGrandfather. Written on the whetstone is the inscription, "**Brought from N Carolina by Martin Johnson in 1823**". This stone measures 2" by 3" and is ½" thick. There is evidence of worn indentations where a pocketknife had been sharpened.

This gives the arrival date of the Johnsons to Franklin County, Missouri as 1823.

In addition I found the following...

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LORD CORNWALLIS DEPARTS

But it is time to return from these sketches, that have little or no connection with the occupation of the British army, to the departure of Lord Cornwallis. Having remained in Salisbury part of three days, he took his departure early on Tuesday morning, the sixth of February. His march was up the Wilkesboro Road, crossing Grant's Creek, Second Creek, Third and Fourth Creeks. A march of about fifteen or eighteen miles brought them to their first encampment, on the west side of the South Fork of the Yadkin, not far from Rencher's (or Renshaw's) Ford. A little stream, called Beaver Dam, would furnish them water, and the well-to-do farmers of South River and Fourth Creek—the Johnstons, Luckeys, Grahams, Gillespies, and Knoxes—had capacious and well-filled barns, cribs, and granaries. It was at this encampment that William Young, mentioned in a previous chapter, had his adventures with the British soldiers. On the seventh, the British crossed the Shallow Ford of the main Yadkin, where little John Spurgen caught sight of them, and hastened with the news to General Greene. They there passed out of Rowan County.

"History of Rowan County, North Carolina"
by Rev. Jethro Rumble, Page 167.
Published by: Heritage Books, Inc.
1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie,
Maryland 20716 ISBN: 0-7884-1203-5

[1] The Johnson's and Luckey's lived off of South Yadkin River & Fourth Creek in northern Rowan Co., NC. Looking at a map, you can see that Fourth Creek runs into Iredell Co., in fact, it is just a mile or two from Statesville, which is the county seat of Iredell Co. Need to check the land records for Rowan & Iredell to find out their exact residence.

THE 1790 FEDERAL CENSUS...

CENSUS: This is what the 1790 census should look like.

????? JOHNSON		
Ages	FREE WHITE MALES	Free white females
UNDER 16 YEARS	= (2) Benjamin age 15 & William age 6	
UPWARD OF 16 YEARS	= (1) at least the father	

????? JOHNSON Looking for our Progenitor in 1790 Census code: 21????

Free White Males		1790 Federal Census Key		
1	2	3	4	5
16 and over	15 and under	Free White Females	All other free persons	Slaves

There should be at least 2 males under 16 years of age and maybe the father.

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Another census key that is useful in North Carolina is the following...

1784-1787 North Carolina State Census Key				
1	2	3	4	5
White males 21-60	White males under 20 and over 60	White Females any age	Blacks 12 to 50	Blacks >50 <12

PROBABLE CAUSE...

Now that I had done my homework, I had enough information to warrant a field trip to Rowan and Iredell Counties of North Carolina.

Remember my goal was to find the parents of Benjamin Johnson born 1775 in North Carolina.

With all the pointers pointing to Rowan and Iredell Counties, this would be the most logical place to begin my research.

So, in the early 1990's, I left my home in Florida and with wife and daughter in tow, headed for Rowan County, North Carolina.

I also wanted to visit, Monroe County, Tennessee where the Pratts were last living before they were forced on the "**Trail of Tears**" in 1838.

I also wanted to visit Greene County, Tennessee where Henry and Nancy (**CARTER**) Pratt were married.

So, while the rest of you were taking vacations to Vegas and Disneyland, I was taking my vacations in pursuit of my ancestral family roots.

FINALLY...WE ARE HERE!!!

When we arrived in Rowan County, the information at the libraries and courthouse was overwhelming.

Volumes of books had been compiled from court records and marriage books and the libraries were full of Johnson, Luckey, Dyson and Gaston material.

I only was able to scratch the surface in the two days I spent in Rowan and then 1 day in Iredell County, North Carolina.

I found references to hundreds of Johnson transactions and by matching my Benjamin and William, discovered other researchers had listed their father to be John Johnston Sr. of Rowan County, North Carolina.

Coupled with what I found in the 1840 census of Franklin County, Missouri...Benjamin & Amelia are living next door to William Johnson age 50-59 and two doors down from son; Wiley Johnson and a few doors prior is son; Townsend Johnson, son; Martin Johnson, L.(Lott) M. Drace, Drusilla Jamison and William Dyson.

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It is highly believed that William Henry Johnson Sr. and Benjamin were brothers since they both came from NC at about the same time and William is only 9 years younger than Benjamin. Also, they lived next door to each other. And they are buried in the same cemetery. William's daughter; Caroline married Benjamin's son; Wiley. (First cousins)

By taking the time to go to the counties my ancestors were in, I was able to not only locate the parents of Benjamin Johnson but also tie the Luckey, Dyson and Howard families to the Johnsons.

Following the 7-point exercise listed on page 4 & 5, helped me solve my "brick wall" and I know it can help solve yours also.

When I was a young man selling insurance, I asked my instructor what was the difference between successful people and unsuccessful people.

He stated, "A successful person will do what it takes to get the job done, while the unsuccessful person will not sacrifice and pay the price of success."

So, many of you, who wait and sit and hope someone will hand you the answers to your family history questions will never know the joy of discovery when **you** find those answers.

Many of you will take the time, spend the money, research and find the answers to your "brick walls,"...accolades to you. Which type of family history researcher are you?

Strange, I have found those who sacrifice and find the answers are reluctant to share those answers and their research with others because...others have not had to "pay their dues".

I hope this helps you break down those "brick walls" and you will know the joy of discovery and knowing in your heart, with the help of our Heavenly Father, you and only you know how you found the truth.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
1 January 2011

[End of Lesson "How To Break Down Your Brick Walls"]

IN CONCLUSION...CONCERNING THE TWO WILSONS

The above additional material was offered to the serious family history researcher to help, guide and educate to a method of research that has been proven successful. I hope those of you who are really serious concerning your family history will do what it takes to achieve the ancestral knowledge you seek.

Based on my 40 years of family history research I can draw some conclusion from the available data concerning the Wilson R. Johnson family.

First of all, it is obvious, based on the above research; Wilson R. Johnson and Wilson "Willis" Johnson are not the same people and have different parentage.

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WILSON “WILLIS” JOHNSON SON OF BENJAMIN AND AMELIA () JOHNSON RECORDS.

- 1815 Birth of Wilson “Willis” Johnson in Iredell County, North Carolina.
- Benjamin and Amelia () Johnson named a son; Wilson “Willis” Johnson in 1815 three years after Wilson R. Johnson was born. Highly unlikely those parents would name two children with the SAME first name. I have seen this in families before, but only when the first child had died. There is an exception to the rule with the French. Due to their religious tendencies, they could and did name several daughters as Mary followed by a different middle name.
- 1820 census Wilson “Willis” Johnson with parents in Iredell County, North Carolina.
- 1823 Family Move Benjamin & Amelia () Johnson clan with 8-year-old son, Wilson moved in 1823 to Franklin County, Missouri with family, friends and in-laws.
- 1830 census Wilson “Willis” Johnson living with parents in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1840 census Wilson “Willis” Johnson living with parents in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1850 census Wilson “Willis” Johnson living with parents in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1852 Father; Benjamin Johnson dies leaving all property by will to youngest son; Wilson “Willis” Johnson in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1859 Mother; Amelia () Johnson dies in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1860 census Wilson “Willis” Johnson living alone next door to brother; William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1870 census Wilson “Willis” Johnson living with nephew; Alvin H. Johnson (1831-1908) son of Willis’ brother; Townsend & Rebecca (**DYSON**) Johnson. Alvin married Cassandra (**SMITH**) (1842-1928) daughter of Robert & Cassandra (**JOHNSON**) Smith from Indiana. The children listed with them in the 1870 census are Alvin & Cassandra’s.
- 1880 census Wilson “Willis” Johnson living with nephew; Joseph Wilson Johnson, niece; Amelia "Mealy" (**JOHNSON**), nephew; John Newberry Johnson, niece; Jerusha "Russia" (**JOHNSON**) Lawrence, daughter of Jerusha; Ada (**LAWRENCE**); niece; Sarah Frances "Fanny" (**JOHNSON**) were the children of Wilson's brother; William "Billy" & Sarah "Sally" (**STOCKTON**) Johnson in Franklin County, Missouri.
- 1882 Death of Wilson “Willis” Johnson died in Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri, United States on 12 October 1882. Date from William & Sarah (**STOCKTON**) Johnson's Family Bible records states he died 12 October 1882.
- 1882 Burial of Wilson “Willis” Johnson most likely he is buried in the original family cemetery with his parents before the cemetery was relocated and his headstone destroyed or lost.
- Wilson “Willis” Johnson never married and had no children.

COMPARE IN CONTRAST

WILSON R. OR F. JOHNSON AND FAMILY ARE LISTED IN THE FOLLOWING KNOWN RECORDS.

- Wilson R. or F. Wilson is born in North Carolina, Virginia (per daughter's census), Kentucky, or Tennessee on 8 June 1812. (from various census data)
- Wilson R. Johnson was born 3 months after Benjamin and Amelia (____) Johnson's son; Wiley Johnson who was born on 6 April 1812. This alone proves Wilson R. had different parents.
- 1830 census; future Father-in-law; David Galton family lives South of Cumberland River, Cumberland County, Kentucky.
- Wilson R. or F. Wilson's family as a single person moves to Cumberland County, Kentucky or whatever county he married Savina (**GALTON**) or Golton.
- Wilson R. Johnson married Savina (**GALTON**) circa 1838 in either Kentucky or Tennessee and settled down in Overton County, Tennessee. His father-in-law; David Galton moves with him or joins him in Overton County by the 1840 census.
- 1840 census in-laws; David [1779-1850] & Sarah Franklin Marshall [1790-1860] (**SCOTT**) Galton are in the 1840 Census of Overton County, Tennessee.
- 1840 census Wilson R. or F. is living in Williamson County, Tennessee with wife; Savina no children listed. (not verified)
- Wilson R. or F. Johnson and descendants **never name** any of their sons or daughters Benjamin or Amelia.
- 1850 census Wilson R. or F. is living in District 4, Overton County, Tennessee and states he was born in Kentucky.
- Wilson R. or F. Johnson not named in Benjamin Johnson's will of 1852.
- 1860 census Wilson R. is living near Mouth of the Wolf Post Office, District 4, Overton County, Tennessee and states he was born in Tennessee.
- 1870 census Wilson R. or F. is living near Mouth of Wolf and Fox Springs Post Office, District 8, Overton County, Tennessee and states he was born in North Carolina.
- Between 1870 and 1880 Wilson R. Johnson has moved from near Mouth of Wolf and Fox Springs Post Office, District 8, Overton County, Tennessee to District #10, Clay County, Tennessee.
- 1880 census Wilson R. or F. Wilson is living in District #10, Clay County, Tennessee and states he was born in North Carolina.
- 1900 census Wilson R. or F. Wilson is living with daughter in Civil District #10, Clay County, Tennessee and states he was born in North Carolina.
- 1905 Wilson R. or F. Wilson died in Civil District #10, Clay County, Tennessee.
- 1905 Wilson R. Wilson is buried in the Saint Johns Cemetery, Willow Grove, Clay County, Tennessee, United States at [Find A Grave Memorial# 50423005](#).

UNDENIABLE FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS

It is undeniable Wilson "Willis Johnson of Franklin County, Missouri and Wilson R. of F. Wilson of Clay County, Tennessee are different people.

1. One born in definite location (North Carolina), the other not sure.
2. Son, Wiley Johnson of Benjamin and Amelia born in April 1812.
3. Wilson R. Johnson born in June 1812.
4. Both Wilson's born three years apart.
5. Different parents
6. One moved with parents to Missouri, the other moved to Kentucky and Tennessee.
7. One married and had a large family the other never married.
8. One lived with parents until their death then inherited the homestead.
9. The other lived near in-laws after marriage.
10. Cannot be the same men with the same parents because they cannot be in different states at the same census dates.
11. In different locales during census records.
12. One died in Franklin County, Missouri in 1882 buried with parents, the other died 1905, 22 years later buried with spouse in Clay County, Tennessee.

NOW SOME HELP FOR YOU WILSON R. OR F. JOHNSON RESEARCHERS

Concerning the descendant names of Wilson R. Johnson, there are recurring names in Wilson R. Johnson's descendant's family that needs to be investigated. For instance...**Richard** keeps repeating and **Wilson** keeps repeating. Also, other names should be looked into.

Concerning Wilson R. Johnson's ancestors in the 1820 census I had mentioned earlier, the names of Richard, Wilson, James, Lafayette, George and Thomas Johnson all seem to be recurring names in this family.

I would dismiss famous people's name such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and Jean Lafayette but names that seem to be original would be my best bet for Wilson R. Johnson's ancestral family names.

I would look at every Richard, Wilson and James Johnson family in the 1820 North Carolina census, just as I had done in my lesson "**Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #6 How to Breakdown Your Brick Wall**" to determine who has a son aged 8 years old in the 1820 census. I would research each of those prospects to determine which one of those men were from **England**.

After finding a likely candidate as the father of Wilson R. Johnson, I would check the 1830 census and 1840 census of North Carolina and hopefully Wilson R. Johnson's father may have survived to the 1850 census.

As mentioned, be mindful of the various North Carolina families that may have settled in the Overton County, Tennessee area. They may be relatives of Wilson R. Johnson.

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE

BY *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* 2011 REVISED 2ND EDITION 2015

Cumberland County, Kentucky Courthouse needs to be investigated to not only determine...

1. If Wilson and Savina were married there (circa 1838)
2. Also to determine if Wilson R. Johnson bought property
3. Why did Wilson R. Johnson leave his birth state and go to Cumberland County, Kentucky
4. He could have gone anywhere, why there?
5. Maybe the newspapers and/or court records might allude to his birth location.
6. Remember how confusing his birth location was as reported in the census records?

After determining which county could be the birth county of Wilson R. Johnson, take a road trip to that county and research their records. First and foremost always check the local libraries to see if someone has written a book on that particular Johnson family and/or the Galton family. Also, don't pass up the opportunity for a will naming Wilson R. Johnson as a son or son-in-law. (He may have been previously married).

Wilson R. Johnson was born in June 1812 in either North Carolina or Virginia and is listed in the 1900 census of 10th Civil District, Clay County, Tennessee, United States as Wilson F. Wilson and died in Clay County, Tennessee, United States on 28 December 1905 and is buried in the Saint Johns Cemetery, Willow Grove, Clay County, Tennessee, United States at [Find A Grave Memorial# 50423005](#).

Checking the courthouse records of Clay County, Tennessee for information concerning Wilson R. or Wilson F. Johnson even the newspapers might reveal information about his parentage.

1. I would go to Clay County Tennessee and search all their records first
2. Then go to Overton County, Tennessee and search all their records for these answers
3. If you have not found what you are looking for...
4. It is time to go to Cumberland County, Kentucky and find out if he lived there and if that was he location of his and Savina's marriage.

Where you find they were married is probably the county he lived in before he was married. Be sure to check the deeds, court records and newspapers for that time period (1838) for any clues as to his parents and/or associations with other Johnson families in that county.

When I was looking for the parents of Benjamin Johnson, concerning all of the researchers who came before me, **none of them** would take the time for a road trip to North Carolina to find out about him. I did and discovered what county he came from, his father, and brothers and was able to tie in neighbors and relatives who accompanied him to Franklin County, Missouri.

If you will follow my example and follow the procedures as I have outlined in my research, I am convinced not only will you discover Wilson R. Johnson's parents but probably take him back several generations into England. Also, be mindful it may not have been Wilson R. Johnson's father who was from England, but it could have been his mother.

I have taken the time to put together this ridiculous time consuming 63-page report to put to rest, once and for all, the controversy concerning the two Wilsons.

WILSON R. JOHNSON AND HIS MISALIGNED PARENTAGE
BY *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* 2011 REVISED 2ND EDITION 2015

It is my desire that future Wilson R. Johnson researchers do not waste any more time focusing in the wrong direction, and they channel their collective energies into solving Wilson R. Johnson's family history.

I originally wrote this article back in 2011 because of the erroneous parentage so many of you who have copied information in ancestry.com to your trees. It is 2015 and I see none of you have researched or made an attempt to correct this situation concerning his parentage.

I am hoping my time, energy and expense of producing this article will help to set the record straight and I hope those of you with incorrect family ties will remove Benjamin and Amelia from Wilson R. Johnson's tree...since I have proven to you they are not the same man. You have no excuse.

After checking the trees on ancestry.com for new research in 2015, and knowing Wilson R. or F. Johnson died 115 years ago, I discovered no one has made any new contributions to discovering his parentage. I truly hope he doesn't have to wait another 115 years before someone will care enough and do what it takes to solve his parentage. After all I have done to help, I now have a vested interest in this man and I am not even related to him.

As the Lord has said before..."I didn't say it would be easy, just worth it."

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

11 November 2011

Revised 29 May 2015

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Mr. Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Floyd started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others. Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors. It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Due to confusion with Pratt ancestors and not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 50,000 individuals in his database and has achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt created  **Pratt Publications**.

He began to offer to the public, a series of books titled, Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 11 volumes were sent to the Salt Lake Genealogical Library with 60 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt created the  **Genealogical Institute** to further the education of serious researchers.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

The **Genealogical Institute** offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the novice as well as advanced researchers, procedures Mr. Pratt has tried and tested to be of great value in family history research. These courses offer “a hands on” curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical techniques for tracking your family history. Many have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses.

Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, these courses are valuable tools for the family history researcher. Mr. Pratt has been informed by researchers his material found in his publications are recorded as source validation for such organizations as the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Upon completion of the educational courses from the **Genealogical Institute**, the graduate is awarded the *Master Accreditation* of the *Genealogical Institute*. (*M.A.G.I.*) Written in easy to read format with detailed explanations concerning various subjects of interest to family history researchers.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many experienced researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their “brick wall” in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize, this knowledge has been acquired over 40 years of research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task. Outside of Washington, Saint John's Township, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery aka; misnamed the McAllister Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and arrived in the Missouri Territory shortly after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

Mr. Pratt recorded all the information off of the headstones including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related to Mr. Pratt or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book “**JOHNSON-CALDWELL CEMETERY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI**”©.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, talking to ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text.

What makes this book unique is based on several factors. First, it is the only book to report on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children. Second, this book contains a unique index, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research should be based. No one has ever produced a body of work as unique and professional as this publication.

As the years moved on, Mr. Pratt became concerned about his 40 years of hard research work of various family histories. After a serious heart attack in 2012, Mr. Pratt decided to post his collective bodies of work on a website making them available to all interested researchers without compensation.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

After careful consideration, Mr. Pratt chose the website www.openlibrary.org. "Open Library" is a repository of millions of digital books available to the public for free.

There are two or more ways to access Mr. Pratt's publications.

If you open the website as listed above you click on the authors label on the left hand side and type Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I. The website will open to his name, click his name and you will be directed to a listing with his name, picture and listing of presently 62 publications (2015).

You can either scroll the list or an easier way to reach his lists is at the following website...

<https://openlibrary.org/people/floydpratt59/lists>

If you notice there are currently 9 lists or categories of books, article, stories and commentaries attributed to Mr. Pratt's publications.

These "Lists" are broken down as follows not necessarily in any order...

Vital Text Series This section covers public vital records. Including marriage records, deeds, census records, births, deaths, probate and indexes to public records. The counties of Missouri covered are as follows; Crawford, Washington, Franklin, Gasconade, St. François, Ste. Genevieve, and Jefferson counties.

Pratt Archive Collections This Collections comprises of a series of books containing cemeteries, family histories, biographies and various books by individual authors. There are several sections with this group... **Cemeteries** contain documented census information for various cemeteries in Crawford, Washington and Franklin Counties of Missouri. **Family Histories** are a collection of historical books concerning a group of a family or family names.

CRADLE TO GRAVE (C2G) PROFILE The Cradle to Grave Profile (C2G) documents an individual's life from the cradle to the grave. All known research material concerning that individual is represented in a family group sheet format. These C2G profiles are presented to the researcher within a family group sheet detailing the husband, his spouses and all known children. Regardless of how many times the subject has been married, the researcher receives a full report on all known spouses and children for one low fee.

The Pratt Chronicles... The Pratt Chronicles series or what we call a Cradle to Grave (C2G) profile on steroids, is an in-depth comprehensive biography on one individual's life encompassing all known events, including historical factors from the time of their birth to their burial. These events are comprised of current music, inventions, movies, family births, deaths, marriages, legal documents, occupations, military participation, pictures, maps, mementos, world history, US history and economic conditions as they occurred on a yearly basis.

LITERARY HISTORY SERIES contains rare books concerning family history written by other authors...many who are deceased. These books were bought over the years and now enjoy the status of a rare find in the genealogical library.

VIEW FROM THE MAST... Over the years, Mr. Pratt has found it necessary to write articles concerning observations concerning various family history topics or what we call personal artifacts. These reports, articles and short stories are contained in this section labeled...View From the Mast.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Having a unique perspective from the top of mast on the sailing ship of discovery, Mr. Pratt has sailed through the waters of family history research for the last 40 years. These articles were designed to bring to the attention of family historians some unusual details he has witnessed during his research tenure.

Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Courses These courses were developed over the years to assist the novice as well as the professional in all manners pertaining to family history research. Written in easy to read format with detailed explanations concerning various subjects of interest to family history researchers.

Pratt Progenitor Papers Series This series is comprised of the famous **Pratt Progenitor Papers**. Starting with a known ancestor, this collection covers 2 or more generations of descendants. Each volume follows a particular individual and his descendants including children, grandchildren and spouses if known. Each of these volumes include legal and detailed information about a particular ancestor...many contain Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profiles. The order of reporting is as follows: 1st a Descendancy report on the primary, which is usually the husband; 2nd the primary or husband followed by all known wives, then 3rd the second generation comprising of all known children and their spouses, followed by additional subsequent generations of descendants. The **PPP** are light on speculation and assumptions, heavy on factual documentation offering research insights and suggestions.

ANCESTRAL FAMILY HISTORY OF... This book showcases a selected individual usually a living descendant, detailing their direct line ancestors as far as the research has been completed. This type of format is known as an enhanced pedigree chart. These books contain as many as 10 to 70 generations limited only by the number of ancestors of our primary individual. Whereas, pedigree charts list only the vitals on an individual, these books generate all known notes, articles, legal documents and if applicable, Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profiles on each and every direct line ancestor and their spouses.

When accessing Mr. Pratt's books on Open Library, click on the heading of each list and you will be directed to the books, articles, stories and commentaries contained in each section. Click on the title of the book or article you desire for a full explanation of the item with contents. On the upper right hand column, are the words "Read Online" and PDF. All of these publications have been uploaded to the Internet Archive Digital Library repository and you can access them directly at the following...
<https://archive.org/>

If you wish to read online, click the read online link, the book will open and if you wish to download this item click the PDF link in the box on right. We suggest you download, giving you the opportunity to read and study the books, articles, stories and commentaries at your leisure.

We, in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his research and dedication, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical research field.

In addition we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman
Genealogical Institute

Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. Pedigree Chart

1 page of 43 pages Pedigree

Page 1

Chart no. 1

